

Interview with Dr. Robert Green
SESSION 1 (5/22/2021)
Timed Log

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Green was born in Detroit, Michigan, November, 23, 1933. His father, Thomas Green was born and raised in Jones County, Georgia. He served in World War I for two years. After being discharged he moved to Georgia where he was not allowed to vote. He eventually moved to Detroit, MI and worked for Henry Ford around 1921-22.

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His mother spent her early years in a home for girls outside of Milledgeville, GA. Her parents sent her there to prevent her from marrying Green's father. She ended up marrying him anyway.

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He grew up in a racially segregated neighborhood that was socioeconomically mixed. North of his neighborhood was the Jewish and White community. To the west there were few Black families. The neighborhoods were strictly segregated. His neighborhood was located in Northwest Detroit.

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Green was an expert witness for the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) in a major Detroit school desegregation case. His research found that the Detroit Board of Education would mark portions of a neighborhood when more than 5 or 6 families would move into a block to indicate that it was a Black neighborhood. This was around 1950-1955.

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As a child he played football and basketball with the neighborhood kids. His father was very active in the Church of God in Christ, a Pentecostal church, which preferred a focus on church than sports. His father did not restrict him from playing sports. Green played football in high school. The major focus in his family was education. Within the family, Green believes there are close to 100 college degrees. His oldest brother had 8 daughters, all of who have graduate degrees (Masters, PhDs and MDs). Green's father was pushy about getting an education.

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His father reached fourth grade and his dad (Green's grandfather) was forced to work in the fields. His father always wanted to finish his education. He stressed to Green and his siblings the importance of getting an education to overcome racism and brutality he witnessed in the State of Georgia.

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His father's way of thinking on education was not common in Green's childhood neighborhood. Green recalls that his father's insistence on education was stronger than anyone he knew. His father was soft spoken and his mother was more outspoken in talking about racism. His father was fearful. Green recalls his father reluctantly sharing with him, that when he was 14 years old, that he saw a good childhood friend lynched. When Green asked his father what did the man do to deserve a lynching, his father answered, "Not really anything." His father told him that every now and then, Whites would lynch a Black man to keep other Blacks in control. This instilled a degree of caution and fearfulness in his father. Green first learned about discrimination from reading Langston Hughes. Green watched his father deal with racism and deal with White men, especially when traveling South. One time, when he was stopped by the sheriff in a small town, he witnessed his father's immediate apology to the White officer. The sheriff responded calling his father "boy" and asked him if he had any money on him. Because his father was aware of how to deal with racism in the south he kept money in both pockets. His father gave the officer \$10. Green wrote an article about how to deal with police officers. Green stressed that it is important to speak to young Black men about how to deal with police officers. Green recalls that Martin Luther King Jr. was forceful about overcoming fear. Green was 12 years old when the incident with his father and the police officer happened. He recalls that when they traveled south his father, knowing that the locals would know they were out-of-towners, would stop and asked the sheriff where the "coloreds" were. Most southern sheriffs, if you were polite and "take low," would be helpful.

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Green recalls a sheriff pulling up behind them when they stopped at a gas station in Tennessee. His father was polite and provided the officer with all of the information that he requested and the officer let them go. Green distinguishes the polite behavior needed as not being an "Uncle Tom," but as a way of survival.

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Green tells young Black men that their focus is not to talk down an officer but to get home alive. Green witnessed seeing Black men in body bags during his time working as an orderly in Detroit's Receiving Hospital. Green's focus is the survival of young people and he believes that education is a key factor. This is one of the reasons Green respected Arthur Ashe so much. Ashe was not only a star athlete and great student at UCLA; he also promoted equity and social justice for all.

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Any politics that was spoken about in the family usually came from Green's mother. His father was more practical. His father had 5 sons and was concerned about them getting in trouble with the police, which they didn't. Green's mother was more outspoken about racism.

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Green attended Northern High School in Detroit, Michigan. It was a segregated high school. Northern High School was roughly 85% Black and was the receiving school for recent immigrants from Eastern Europe. Most of Green's siblings attended Northern. The staff and faculty at the school were mostly White. Green had his first African American teacher in math, Mr. McGivens. It was hard for Blacks to get teaching jobs. Green's sister, Naomi, who was very smart and spoke several languages including Arabic, was discouraged from going into teaching by their French teacher. Green was also discouraged. Green describes the low expectation for minority children as a form of segregation. Green has written an article on High Expectations and Student Achievement.

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Although the faculty and counselors at Green's school had low expectation of him going to college, his family was known at school for being very pro-education. His father would come to the high school to check on him. This motivated Green to make sure he was doing well in school. Green had good role models, his older siblings.

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Green estimates that about 7% of his high school mates went off to college. Green recalls his next door neighbor, a very smart student who didn't have the family support to go to college. White students sometimes had more family, community and school support. Green loved French and it was his French teacher who was one of the people who discouraged him from going to college.

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In a French class when Green was struggling with some French verbs his French teacher told him not to worry because he wasn't going to need it. Teachers could say small things to hold a student back.

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After high school, Green was drafted into the military. He was stationed at the Presidio in San Francisco. He worked on a ward that took care of incarcerated men who committed crimes mostly in Korea. Green worked the night shift. He decided to continue his education and contacted Troop Information and Education and found out that there was money to go to college. Green had access to the GI Bill which he used for his education. Despite the racial tensions of the times, being Black and being a student could be an advantage. Green recalls driving across country to Michigan to get his PhD.

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Green chose San Francisco State College, presently known as San Francisco State University, for most of his undergraduate work. It was close to The Presidio. Green learned that wearing his army uniform on campus was an advantage. He attended SF State from 1954-1956. The campus was diverse, but there were not many Blacks. He met Willie Brown, who later became the mayor of San Francisco, Hiawatha Harris, who would later become a psychiatrist, and Louis Davis, Green's college roommate who later became an M.D. Green was a good student. He met his future wife, Lettie, on campus.

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Green would go on to get his Masters and become the first African American to receive credentials to be a certified school psychologist in the state of California, yet when he finished his studies he couldn't get a job. All of the major city public schools turned him down for positions even though they all had openings. It was discouraging. Green's wife suggested he go for a PhD. He did, and was admitted to Michigan State University to pursue his PhD.

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Green's activism started in the latter part of his college years. The bus boycott in Alabama started when Green was in college. He watched the news every night and become interested in Martin Luther King Jr (MLK). Green learned that MLK would be speaking at the NAACP's national meeting, which was being held at the civic center in San Francisco in 1955. Green went to this event and introduced himself to MLK. MLK invited him to hear him speak at the University of California, Berkeley. Green attended the event and told MLK that he would love to work with him one day. MLK suggested that when he finished school to contact him, which Green did. While at Michigan State, Green participated in the Civil Rights movement. He and his wife were the first Blacks to purchase a home in East Lansing, Michigan. They only got the home by suing realtors, using recent anti-discrimination legislation. Green and students at Michigan State were well involved in anti-racism activity at the university. His social justice interest inspired his interest in Arthur Ashe's social activism.

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Green first met MLK in 1955. Prior to meeting MLK, Green was involved in integrating Yellow Cabs in San Francisco. Yellow Cab would not hire Blacks and contrary to popular belief San Francisco was a very segregated and racialized city at that time. Green got the job at Yellow Cab because the NAACP boycotted them. Because of the NAACP, Yellow Cab hired three Black cab drivers: Green, Willie Brown (who later became Mayor of San Francisco) and Louis Davis (became a successful MD in the Bay Area).

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Prior to the boycott, Green recalled the 10-item reading test that he was required to take as part of his application. Willie Brown, Louis Davis (Green's college roommate who would later go to medical school), and Green were all told that they had failed the test, even though the test was geared to a third grade reading level. Under the guidance of the NAACP, Blacks then boycotted both Yellow Cab and other city transportation services.

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Green shares an example of one of the questions on the hiring test. Green was aware of the psychology of the test due to his education in psychology. The NAACP chose the three of them, specifically because of their advanced education to challenge Yellow Cab.

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Hunter's Point was a place where Blacks could buy homes. It was also where public housing was initiated. The area near San Francisco State University was segregated. San Francisco, despite its current reputation as a liberal city, was segregated at the time. Green recalls that while driving his cab, when audiences would leave the Opera Center after a performance, they would look in cabs to see if the driver was Black and if so would go to the next cab. Yellow Cab eventually passed a policy that drivers had to pick up the first customer in line and if a customer declined a cab and would go to the next cab, the driver had to decline them.

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Green recall an incident with two elderly White women leaving the opera. They looked into his cab and decided to take the next one. He told them that they couldn't. They got in his cab and noticed his books. One lady told the other that he was ok because he has books in the car. In another case, he picked up a White father at 2 am who needed medicine for his baby; turns out, he was a medical doctor. He too noticed the books and asked about them. He ended up tipping Green \$50. Green had especially good experiences from tourists who would come to San Francisco.

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There was limited campus housing on the college. Green never stayed on campus, very few African Americans did. Blacks were encouraged to stay in the city in Black areas.

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After Green received his PhD from Michigan State University (MSU) he was offered a job at both MSU and Boston University (BU). Green was considering BU when John Hannah, who was president of MSU and also served (as the first Chairman) on the United States Commission on Civil Rights, called him into his office. He told Hannah he was considering the job in Boston because Blacks can't buy homes in East Lansing, MI. Hannah agreed to help Green in buying a home in East Lansing. Green and his family became the first Blacks to buy a home in East Lansing, MI. Green learned that Blacks in other cities were also having the same problems.

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Housing discrimination legislation had been passed and Green filed suit in 1963 against the real estate association in Michigan. Green was an activist even though he didn't call himself so. Whenever he faced discrimination, he would find a way to fight it.

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Once they occupied their home, there were challenges but he had support from Black athletes at MSU. Students like Bubba Smith and Lamar Thomas spent time at Green's home finding ways to deal with discrimination.

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Green started at MSU in the fall of 1960 and completed his PhD in 1962. Hannah and his work on the Commission meant that he would make sure to be on top of racial discrimination quickly. He released a report about racism and segregation in Alabama. He advocated for starting a human relations committee in East Lansing, which occurred. Sports were big at MSU and brought in a lot of revenue for the university. Green recalls when the barbershop on campus would not cut the hair of Black students. Hannah walked a student over to the barbershop and got a hair cut with him. It was symbolism that worked.

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Black students made up roughly 12% of the student body at MSU at that time. Many were athletes. MSU has a long history in sports, particularly football. Magic Johnson, the famous basketball player, grew up in Lansing, MI and attended MSU. When Green couldn't buy a home it was Black students who came to his aid and marched in protest. There was a level of tension and attention given to discrimination on campus due to

Black students. The Green home was also opened to Black students. The Black Student Alliance (BSA) was founded in their basement of Green's home on Bessemaur Drive. Black student activism on campus was very important in addressing and changing discrimination.

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Risk for the students in terms of getting kicked off a team or losing scholarships due to their activism was low. Black athletes were needed and they were unified.

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Green would send money to Martin Luther King Jr.'s cause. Green had a lot of respect for King and witnessed some jealousy amongst other civil rights leaders. He remembers Roy Wilkins of NAACP referring to King as a "boy tackling a man's job." MLK stayed focused.

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In 1965 Green invited MLK to come speak at MSU. During that time there were students, Black and White, who bonded together and wanted to do something to enact positive change. Green devised a plan with the president of Rust College in Holly Springs, Mississippi to do a summer tutorial project for faculty and staff. To raise money Green contacted MLK, who raised about \$5,000-6,000 and gave it all to the project. He didn't take a penny. He even paid his own airplane fare.

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MLK came to MSU in 1965 to speak. He drew a very large crowd. Green remembers people crying when King finished speaking. He remembers seeing Betty Duley crying. She called King a "true Christian." Green sat in the front row during the speech. Hannah, who at that time was worried about the possibility of Green leaving the university, told King that they wanted to keep Green at MSU. King responded by advising Hannah to treat him right and treat Black students right and they'll probably stay. Hannah was worried because Green was the second Black to be tenured in the school of education. Green had a joint PhD in education and psychology. Green was known and was beginning to write. Hannah's work on the Commission also had influence. When Green had trouble buying a home, Hannah offered to buy a home for him, but Green declined the offer. He wanted to make sure that other Blacks coming along would not have the same experience. Despite the challenges, there were always Whites who wanted to do the right thing.

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Green is very proud of his sons. All three have graduate degrees in different fields including law, business and engineering. Green's work with Black males is important to them and fighting discrimination is always a part. He tells Black students that there are always opportunities available. But there's also always discrimination to work past.

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During King's visit to MSU he also offered Green an invitation to come with him and work in the south. A year and a half later Green took a leave from MSU to go work for King. Green recalls in his book entitled ***At the Crossroads of Fear and Freedom: The Fight for Social and Educational Justice*** that King stated that Green was one of the few college professors that came to work for Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC) full time. King wanted Green to be a connection between SCLC and the university world. Green didn't believe in violence and nonsense. He believed in hard work and wanted to make things better for students at colleges nationally.

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Green's family moved to Atlanta at one point to work with SCLC. Some of the work that Green did with King and SCLC was connecting him to universities throughout the country, making sure other professors would forward the cause and to help both adults and students identify and address racism in their communities. Green would encourage people to focus on their own hometown and that there is discrimination everywhere.

Interview with Dr. Robert Green
SESSION 2 (5/29/2021)
Timed Log

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Follow up question on the "Big Ten." A number of Black athletes came to Green's house. They complained that they never see Black officials, especially at the football games. MSU had one of the leading teams in the Big Ten Conference. Green went to the coach Hugh Duffy Daugherty to inquire. He also went to Wayne Duke, head of the Big Ten at that time, to ask about Black officials at games. Duke responded that he didn't know any. Green mentioned that there were Blacks officiating high school games. Green mentioned that if there were no Black official at MSU's next game, that the Black players would boycott. Green had two student athletes with him who confirmed. Two Black officials were in place for the first game. The integration of college sports from an officiating standpoint started at MSU and with Green's leadership. Athletes have tremendous power to make change. The athletes at MSU were active about fighting discrimination.

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Once the football players boycotted practice before a major football game. Coach Duffy Daugherty called Green in a panic, not one Black athlete out of 20 showed up for practice. Green hadn't known about the boycott.

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The level of activism that Green witnessed at MSU amongst athletes was unique to MSU. When Green took a stand for Black officials in the Big Ten he got more hate mail regarding that than he did when he was buying a home. Sports are a very touchy issue for many. Green recalls a man from Florida threatening him by telling him that he deserved to die. The president of MSU at that time was Clifton Wharton Jr., the first Black president of a major university. He was supportive of Green's efforts to desegregate sports and all university activities.

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Green was called to meet with the athletic directors of the Big Ten schools and they asked Green to get the athletes to cool down, which Green did not do. Green did a study that documented the lack of diversity across the Big Ten Athletic Conference. At MSU, none of the Black All American athletes were featured in the display area of the athletic department. Moreover, no Blacks worked in the office of the athletic department.

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Green often created reports before initiating his social justice work. Green was interested in opening up college sports from an employment standpoint not just a playing standpoint.

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At MSU Green recalls that there were no Blacks participating in tennis at that time. He helped recruit one Black tennis player, Greg Williams. Williams helped get Green's family active in tennis. He was the only Black tennis player that Green was aware of at MSU. Green and Ashe joked about that fact. Golf and tennis were sports that Blacks weren't as interested and it was easier to get into other sports such as basketball and football. Tennis clubs were segregated. Bringing Ashe to MSU was a big deal. Green and his wife played tennis players. His sons played competitive tennis as juniors and were motivated by Ashe. Once Ashe suggested that Green send his 14-year-old son Kurt to Florida for a year to Nick Bollettieri's tennis camp. Green declined, he wanted Kurt to focus on his academics. Kurt would go on to play squash at Harvard.

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Green talks about MLK's notion to overcome fear during the Civil Rights era. The biggest threats to African Americans at that time was losing their life and having their jobs and homes taken away. He remembers his mother's more militant approach to civil rights versus his father's softer approach. His father witnessed lynching and have very different experiences than his mother. Green use to wonder why Blacks were always afraid. Green received a grant from the justice department to do a major study on Farmville, Virginia in 1964, 65. A town that choose to close schools than follow desegregation laws. Robert Kennedy, who was the Attorney General at the time, demanded that the schools be open. His deputy, William Vanden Heuvel, set forth a proposal for the study. Green was chosen for the \$75,000 grant. They made sure Green was protected while he was in Farmville. He was also being watched by the FBI. He was told he was being watched because he was letting protesters use the copy machine in his office and the machine was purchased with federal money. Green knew he was being watched. Green worked hard to not jeopardize both MSU and his research.

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Not only was Green being watched but pressure was also being put on his Dean to ensure that Green was not becoming an activist. Green was conducting quality research but the prevailing thought in academia was that scholars who did social justice research were not objective. Green believed that you could both do good research and work against discrimination. He was sometimes labeled a civil-rights worker and not a scholar. Green has been published in many journals and has done so out of necessity to prove that one can do scholarship and be an activist at the same time.

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Some were using his work in civil rights to diminish his scholarly work. Green was publishing a quite bit about race and discrimination. Students would often come to Green to ask for a fellowship. He often had grant money and would sometimes hire the students. Green felt that any writing that he did during that time had to deal with social justice issues. Fear was used to intimidate Blacks and keep them in line. Green recalls that every MLK speech touched on this fear. Green remembers when they would walk through Mississippi and sleep in cars at night, he always wanted to stay with Hosea Williams and Megar Ever's brother because they always carried weapons with them. Green believed in nonviolence but also that people who had weapons would also protect you.

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Green did not experience fear in Farmville, VA like he experienced in Mississippi. Green felt that in Mississippi that there was always the possibility of danger and without retribution. In Farmville, Green was constantly in the media and received a few threatening and worrisome calls. He does remember that the Hotel John Marshall in Richmond, VA would not let Black people stay there. And that when traveling he had to always organize his schedule around finding a place to stay. Farmville was a small southern town where everyone knew everyone.

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Green had a good relationship with MLK's father, who they called Daddy King. Green describes him as a good person. Once the Greens relocated to Atlanta for SCLC, Green's first meeting with MLK was the staff meeting. They had staff meetings once a week. Green recalls that MLK's secretary, Dora McDonald, ran into one of the meetings to tell them that James Meredith had been shot. MLK, Green and Andrew Young headed to Memphis after the news. They saw Meredith in the hospital and MLK picked up the march that Meredith had started. MLK asked Green and Hosea Williams to provide leadership for the march.

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Green remembers that they immediately took on the march. Roy Wilkins, head of the NAACP, did not participate. Green noted that there was some jealousy in the civil rights movements among leadership, but King emerged. He was charismatic and would be on the front lines. Green reflected on how times have changed in Mississippi.

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Meredith was taken to a hospital in Memphis instead of Mississippi. His shooting led to The March Against Fear in 1966. They marched from Memphis, Tennessee to Jackson, Mississippi over the course of three and a half weeks. The planning meeting

for the march took place at the Lorraine Motel in Memphis, TN. King called the meeting which included Stokely Carmichael of Student Non-Violence Coordinating Committee (SNCC), Roy Wilkins of NAACP, and Whitney Young of the Urban League. King made a commitment to provide leadership for the march, Wilkins agreed the NAACP would give money but not march. There was a spilt over leadership and the meeting was heated. Carmichael agreed to support but mentioned that if anyone touched him "they're going to have a war." Green describes Carmichael as a firebrand. Carmichael would remind Green that he saved his life. Once they were marching on a highway in Mississippi and were confronted by police, who started shoving them. Carmichael pulled his fist back to strike the highway police. Green shoved Carmichael to the ground and put his body between the police and Carmichael. The officer had his pistol pointed at Carmichael's head. Carmichael always claimed that Green saved his life.

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The march started with roughly 100 people and by the time they got to Jackson, Mississippi they had 20,000 people. The march was getting media coverage and many students came from the north to join the march. It was an integrated group of students, which King thought was an advantage. If there were a large group of White students involved, Mississippi highway patrolmen were less likely to attack the marchers.

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They didn't have federal protection as they did with other marches. Yet President Lyndon Johnson was always concerned that King would be assassinated, so he was monitored. Green has a letter detailed that he was being monitored by the FBI. Green has a 100-page FBI file. Green shares that from one recorded meeting he learned that one of the African American men at the meeting was a spy. Kennedy also didn't want anything to happen to the civil rights activist, so they were often monitored which turned out to be a form of protection.

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Green describes visiting protesters that had been arrested in Farmville, VA. Green remembers hearing barking outside. He saw a group of officers conditioning a dog to attack Black skin.

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Green never had any encounters with the police dogs. He always kept his distance. He never got close enough to the dogs.

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Green worked full time for SCLC for a year, but would continue to work for King on special projects thereafter. Green learned of King's assassination from Jean Young,

Andrew Young's wife. Andrew Young was with King when he was shot. Young's wife called Green about this tragic news. Dr. King did not make it. The incident had a strong impact on Green. Several hundred students came to his house. They initially wanted to burn the campus, but Green talked them into a different, non-violent strategy.

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The next day, MSU's main ballroom was packed. Some angry Black students wanted only Black students to attend but Green was able to talk to them into including others. The group marched across campus which is documented. There were other Whites who supported and helped fund the cause.

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In Grenada, Mississippi in 1966, Green recalls being in a car with King, Coretta Scott King's cousin was driving. King was sitting in the front passenger seat. He like sitting with the window down. In the back seat was Green, Andrew Young and Hosea Williams. As the car passed a gas station, James Belk who was pumping gas at the station, stopped pumping and walked over to the car and put a .38 pistol to King's head. He said, "Martin I'm going to blow your brains out." King replied, "Brother, I love you." Belk, stunned, put the pistol in his pocket and walked away. Everyone in the car was upset. Coretta King's cousin drove the car a couple of blocks and pulled over. Everyone was panicking. Young confronted King about sitting in the front seat with the window down. King replied that the President Kennedy was assassinated with top security, so when they want him they will get him. This comment stayed with Green. King was not afraid. Green respected King for that, most of the civil rights activists were afraid. There were civil rights workers who carried weapons, but most did not because if they were pulled over and weapons were found in the car they would be arrested. In Mississippi, Blacks would have rifle racks mostly used for hunting, but usually Blacks were fearful of being armed and arrested.

[00:56:12]

In Grenada MS, schools were being integrated in 1965-66. Joan Baez came down to march with King. Green always stayed at the Lorraine Motel when he was in MS. Green recalls one time when both he and Hosea Williams had the last room in the motel and was woken in the middle of the night by King and Ralph Abernathy to give up the room. When in MS, King would stay at the Lorraine.

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Green felt that lawlessness on the part of Whites in Mississippi and the killing of Emmet Till raised the level of the perception of MS as being a bad place. Even before the Till killing, MS was seen as a dangerous place for Blacks. Both Mississippi and Alabama were seen as two of the most difficult places for Blacks to live and travel. There were no penalties for killing Blacks. And Blacks were aware of that, they would whisper

about it. Even in his work in Farmville, VA, Green never felt that he could lose his life, but he felt he could lose his life in Grenada MS.

[01:00:31]

Greg Williams, a tennis player at MSU, got Green's son Kurt into tennis. Williams would take Vince and Kurt to the court to play tennis. Green enjoyed whatever his sons enjoyed. One year they decided to go to the US Open. They went to the US Open many more times. Green loved and admired Arthur Ashe. Green went to the Open because of his respect for Ashe. One year, in 1973?, Ashe saw Green and his family at the Open and introduced himself. Ashe arranged for them to sit in an area that was for special guests. He also arranged for them to dine at the clubhouse. At the clubhouse a White man approach Green and his family asking how did get in. Once Green told the man that Ashe had invited them, his tone changed and they all got the royal treatment.

[01:04:36]

At that same time Green was reading and learning about South Africa. Ashe was as well. At the time, Congressman Charles Diggs from Detroit was supposed to accompany Ashe on his trip to South Africa and was unable to do so. Green recommended Ashe invite Congressman Andrew Young to replace Diggs. Green connected the two. Young agreed to go. The three of them went to South Africa with Ashe (1974). Green recalls that they flew into Madrid and then to South Africa. On the plane they spoke about the trip. Green asked Young how he felt about going to South Africa and he replied the same as going to Mississippi. Young also replied that South Africa would be safer than going to Mississippi, because the authorities in South Africa would ensure that nothing happened to them.

[01:06:32]

The president of South Africa at that time had promised Ashe and Young that they would see Nelson Mandela. While Ashe and Young went to visit Mandela, a Black South African student had asked Green if he would come to Soweto. Green went to Soweto and met with students. He ended up bringing 13 back to attend MSU. Ashe helped Green get the students to Michigan. Green brought 13 students to MSU over the course of two years and most of them finished their schooling there, including Dr. Matlala Sydwell of Johannesburg.

[01:07:28]

Green recalls a sermon King gave in Atlanta about South Africa. King spoke for an hour and a half on what was happening South Africa and the evils of apartheid. This peaked Green's interest in South Africa. It was the first time Green had learned about South Africa in such detail. Young's wife, Jean Young and Green's wife Lettie, both avid tennis players, encouraged them to go to South Africa.

[01:10:49]

Green was aware of Ashe's 1973 trip to South Africa. He felt safe going with Ashe knowing that his position was anti-apartheid. Ashe had a lot of support from sports people in South Africa. Green, Young and one other Black person sat in the stadium and watched Ashe play.

[01:12:46]

Green's first impressions of South Africa. He was not fearful like he would have been in Mississippi or Georgia. He recalls being approach by a young diplomat from an African country, who asked how did, being Black, they get to stay in the hotel where they were staying? Green explained to him that they were traveling with Ashe and the diplomat told them to look in their passport, where Green discovered that they had been given "honorary White" status. This enabled the group to stay in nice hotels and move around the city without being challenged.

[01:16:23]

While at the tennis tournament in Ellis Park to ensure protection, Young sat in the Minister of Finance's box and Green sat in another minister's box. Of African American press, someone from Jet Magazine was present. Green thinks maybe editor, Chester Higgins was also on the trip. Green had never seen anything like Soweto in his life. They did not stay overnight in Soweto but stayed at a hotel in Johannesburg. Green gained insight on the circumstances of Black South Africans. He wondered what he could do to help and it was suggested that he bring some students to MSU, which he did. He had tuition and lodging funds and others like Ashe helped with other funding. The one thing that he didn't have funds for was clothing, so his wife took the students to a local department store and Green was able to use his Dean Contingency Fund. He got a little hassle about that. Green still keeps in touch with one of the students, Miliswa Sobukwe. Her parents were freedom fighters in South Africa. Her mother also received a State funeral at her death She keeps Green updated on the other students, who are all doing well. Most went back to South Africa.

[01:21:16]

The South African trip came just before the Student Uprising. Green explains that the student refused to speak English or Dutch in their schools. Green met with the students as the protests were brewing. Several of the students whom he brought back to MSU were involved in the protest from a leadership standpoint. Green got them out of South Africa before they were arrested and imprisoned.

[01:22:21]

Green recalls sitting in integrated seats at Ellis Park Stadium. Visiting El Dorado. When Green visited El Dorado the Coloureds threw him a birthday party. They invited people from Soweto. Green recalls it as one of the first integrated events in the area. It was the first time Blacks had come into El Dorado.

[01:24:55]

Green does not recall that there was anyone who opposed their visits. He credits Owen Williams, known at the time as Mr. Tennis in South Africa, with making that possible. Green doesn't recall having any challenges in his mobility and going to events while in South Africa. South African press was very aware of their backgrounds. Their reception from the Black South African press was positive. They were interested in Young. Green and Young were vocal about opposing apartheid.

[01:28:07]

There was some concern about Young preaching at a church. He was perceived as coloured due to his lighter complexion. Green saw them as firebrands and remembered having to caution students, particularly white students, when they were visiting Mississippi. Speaking too passionately politically could bring trouble to the local Blacks. Green was aware of this during his time in South Africa. They were cautious not to put Black leadership at risk.

[01:31:01]

Green was aware during the trip that Ashe was establishing the Black Tennis Foundation. When Ashe gave his speech at MSU, he talked about South Africa and the need to bring South African students to the US for their education. Green's biggest concern during that trip was the people of Soweto. He focused on getting as much information as needed to bring the 13 students to the US before leaving South Africa. Green also brought a Black South African leader to MSU to speak. Green was able to pay him \$1000 but getting the money back to South Africa was complicated. Green worked with a friend who ran a bank to get the money to SA.

[01:33:24]

It was difficult getting the money to South Africa because the South African government controlled all finances directed toward Black South Africans. Green traveled to South Africa with Ashe twice.

[01:36:08]

Green's wife, Lettie, was a very active tennis player. When Ashe would visit he would stay at the home. In Ashe's speeches at MSU, he spoke about social justice and apartheid.

[01:38:15]

Green was aware of Ashe's work with TransAfrica. There was tremendous demands of Ashe's time. Ashe was very concerned about apartheid. He helped raised money with Lettie Green to get East Lansing youths involved in tennis. Lettie became good friends with Jeanne Moutoussamy-Ashe. Lettie gave an art benefit with Jeanne to raise money for voting rights in the South.

[01:40:19]

After Ashe's trips to South Africa, he toured many college campuses to give speeches. Ashe had spoken at MSU before the 1974 trip to South Africa.

[01:41:18]

Green knew of Ashe's health issues, but describes Ashe as a very private person. He recalls seeing Ashe in New York. He had a cast on his leg. The Greens attended the Ashe's wedding. Lettie helped Jeanne get dressed for the wedding. Green recalls the wedding. It was a small affair. Both Andrew and Jean Young were there. Very few people were at the wedding.

[01:42:30]

Green got a phone call about Ashe's passing. Green did not attend the funeral. Andrew Young delivered the eulogy. Green describes his friendship with Ashe as "Mutual Respect." Ashe respected Green as the first Black dean at a Big Ten university. Green was always amazed by Ashe being not only an athlete but also as scholar. Ashe used his tennis success to do the right thing. Twice Ashe came to MSU to play tennis to help Green raise funds for scholarships for Black students at MSU.