

JW: Manifested through what, wealthy capitalists?

KF: Yes. That would be a part of it, you know.

JW: But I'm talking in terms of the issue of consumerism or the...
[unintelligible]...what explains that phenomena?

KF: Well, I think...

JW: Getting into debt and that kind of thing?

KF: I think at the...the American aristocracy are not lords and dukes and counts. The American aristocracy are the owners of finance. The American aristocracy are not even owners of manufacturing and production. The aristocracy of America are those who control the money. The Ford family or General Motors Corporation have to go to the Mellons or the Rockefellers and others for money and while Standard Oil is a production company, the Rockefellers influence and control is largely through finance. So you have the triumphant of the finance capital and labor, both of which are under the control of the ruling elite in this country which are the financiers.

JW: Could you briefly tell me what particular labor organizations or activities...[unintelligible]...?

KF: Well, I've been involved with...I've been a member of the Transport Workers Union and a member of San Francisco City and County Employees Union. I was president of the City and County Employees Union, Local 400, during most of the Sixties, and the style of my leadership and the organization of the union were along the lines of the IWW which was the Industrial Workers of the World which was an anarchist/synechist group, the emphasis being on one big union and [unintelligible] We did not intend to make the mistakes that the [unintelligible] had made. The IWW was more of a guerrilla group... [unintelligible] fantastic strike but did not occupy. They didn't sign contracts. They didn't believe in contracts. They felt that a contract merely gives the owners a period of rest. They were a revolutionary entity. They are not a business entity. Somewhere in between the business union and the revolutionary union we kind of stick. (Laughs) I was invited to Canada in 1965 to speak upon the civil rights movement here in this country. And the subject matter of my discussion there was to compare the labor movement and the civil rights movement in the sense that the labor movement tended to move like an army with front lines, rear lines, supplies, administration whereas, the civil rights movement moved like a guerrilla force. A raid was made on Selma. A raid was made on Birmingham, but they did not have the occupation powers of a regular army such as the Labor movement. The Labor movement doesn't move as fast but it can occupy the territory once it's there. This was