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**Significant African American Public  
Figures of Texas**

**POLITICS OF AFRICAN AMERICANS**

**Interviewee: CHARLES ROSE, Justice of the Peace**  
Pct. 1-A, Dallas County, Texas

**Interviewers: Anteria Barrett, Monica Esquivel, Silas Panzu**

**Transcriber: Anteria Barrett**

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**Date of Interview: October 8, 2002**

**Location: Arlington, Texas**

**Page Length: 29**

## CHARLES R. ROSE

- Dr.Gutierrez: We are now recording, now recording, oh yeah that's beautiful blue, that's good, that's good, we got you, you got a head shot. This is October 8, 2002, University Hall, University of Texas at Arlington, we're interviewing Justice of the Peace Charles R. Rose.
- Anteria Barrett: Good morning Judge Rose.
- Judge Rose: Good morning.
- Anteria Barrett: Thanks for coming Judge Rose. We will be interviewing on three aspects of your life, your bio, and your political...
- Dr. Gutierrez: Louder!
- Anteria Barrett: Oh okay, and opinions. Uh thank you for taking time out of your busy schedule to come with us.
- Judge Rose: Thank you for having me!
- Anteria Barrett: Who is a Charles Rose and when were you born?
- Judge Rose: Charles Rose is a uh basically just a grass root person, born and raised in Dallas 1946, uh Parkland Hospital, I always like let sure everybody knows I was born at Parkland Hospital, Dallas, Texas. Uh educated in the Dallas school uh uh systems, Fancy Harris Elementary School, uh graduated from Madison High School and uh also graduated from Bishop College and got my Masters here at UTA in Urban Studies.
- Anteria Barrett: Okay, when is your birthday?
- Judge Rose: January 17,1946
- Anteria Barrett: And who are your parents?
- Judge Rose: Um, my parents are Homer and Dorothy Rose. My mother is from Trinidad, Texas it's when I tell them Trinidad they always get Trinidad, because Trinidad, Texas, which is down between Corsicana and Atkins, matter of fact Atkins is uh Henderson County, Atkins is the county seat. My dad was born and raised in

County, Atkins is the county seat. My dad was born and raised in Frankston [Texas], uh my parents were uh, well my, especially my father was old he he passed away back in 19, excuse me, 1987, yeah when he passed away he was 88 year old at time when he passed. So my father was much older than my mother, in fact 25 years, so I was a latecomer, just lucky I even got here.

(laughter)

Anteria Barrett: And who are your grandparents on the paternal and maternal side?

Judge Rose: Uh, you know that's that's that's a good question, that's a very good question because I have never met any of my grandparents, I never met any of relatives, I mean not relatives, but grandparents on both sides. I never met'em, never known'em all I know is what my my mother and my father has passed on to me.

Anteria Barrett: Do you have any names?

Judge Rose: Do I have any names?

Anteria Barrett: um uh!

Judge Rose: Ahhh, one of them the names I know is uh Dorothy, my mothers name is Dorothy Hollingsworth, she's a Hollingsworth. She uh, I mean maiden name is Hollingsworth uh but uh I really don't even know any names to be very honest with you and uh that's one of the things when you talk about your history, you have to know your history and my parents like I say was much older uh than the average parents whereas parents now uh might be 17-18 years old when when their having a child and my mother was much older uh like I said my father passed in 1987 and he was 88 years old when he passed, so uh you can see the generation gap. I always tell everybody I'm just three generations from slavery myself, you see.

Anteria Barrett: So do you have any siblings?

Judge Rose: Do I have any siblings? Yes, I do, I have a, I have a brother lets see there were two kids by my father, uh my father has a, matter of fact

I have a brother believe it or not he is 75 years old. I have a brother that is 75.

Anteria Barrett: What is his name?

Judge Rose: Homer, Jr.

Anteria Barrett: Homer, Jr.

Judge Rose: Homer, Jr., but we call him Homer, Jr., his name is Homer Rose, Jr. he was named after my father. Uh there's another brother who is an older brother, he's old, his name is Odell, and there's another brother who uh we call him Fred, Fre Fred Fred Rose, he died uh about 3 years ago in one of the nursing home and I had a sister who also passed, now this was my fathers first set of kids and the reason why I explained it to you in that prospective because he had two sets of kids by two different women, but we all sort of raised together as one, we was all Rose's. In fact they kind of care of me when uh when uh after I was born, uh they kind of took me places and shared a lot of time and a lot of experience because our parents was old, uh my mother matter of fact my mother still living, she 84years old. Uh they never really had the time or never you know of coarse had experience going places and showing me things, uh my older brothers and sisters are the ones who actually did that.

Anteria Barrett: And how many siblings do you have?

Judge Rose: It was actually it was 8 of us all together.

Anteria Barrett: 8 of you

Judge Rose: 8

Anteria Barrett: [unintelligible]

Judge Rose: Well I have, it was uh 4 sets it was was 3 boys and a girl by my fathers first set and 3 boys and a girl by the second set, it just it just happened that way, I don't why.

(laughter)

Anteria Barrett: Okay, you mentioned Homer and Otis; can we get the other six names?

Judge Rose: The other six names, Fred, O'Dell

Anteria Barrett: O'Dell, I'm sorry

Judge Rose: Fred and O'Dell Rose uh Homer, Jr Rose and my sister sister Juanita Rose that 's my sister, those the first set which are old, now each one of them are in their seventies or more. Then my biological close brothers and sisters, uh one is Roger Rose who is dead, he died back in 1975 uh was killed and then I have a brother who is named Horace Rose uh he lives here in Dallas uh he's working just finishing his de.degree, just now finishing degree, also and I have a sister Joann Bell so that was that's uh my uh that's that's the second set.

Anteria Barrett: Okay most African Americans are raised in a religious home. Were you?

Judge Rose: Yes, sure was.

Anteria Barrett: If you don't mind me asking what religion are you?

Judge Rose: I was raised as a fact a Methodist believe it or not, I was raised as a Methodist. Uh I was born and raised in East Dallas over on Haskell and Grand, if any of you know any thing about Dallas you probably know where that is...uh Gaines Chapel A.M.E. Church is where I grew up in. I got married at a young age, I got married at the age of 17 uh still in high school uh in fact my senior year in high school. I have to tell every ...I lived in [unintelligible] projects right there on 8<sup>th</sup> Street and uh at Monahan Court. My senior I uh worked two jobs, played football and continually went to high school and that's why I get upset today when young people tell me I can't go to school. I'm doing this I'm doing that no excuse its no excuse. If I did it anybody can do it, I mean not that I am trying to put anybody down, but uh if I can be successful in going through school, marrying at a young age uh any body can do it.

Anteria Barrett: You were raised as a Methodist so what you just what?

Judge Rose: I was raised in the Methodist, I married at 17 and uh my wife that I married, her grandfather was a Baptist minister, we call it the True Purpose Baptist Church, it's still down in the bottom of Oak Cliff. If any of you know about the bottom uh which is right off of 8<sup>th</sup> Street uh that's where we I went to church. I was married 17 years before I realized me and my wife were totally two different people totally two different people and uh we ended up getting a divorce, I didn't divorce her, she divorced me. Uh so at the end of that 17 years I stayed single and during that three year period of time I uh after that I remarried to the lady that I'm married to now. Believe it or not I am a Catholic at this point, I been a Catholic for 20 years.

Anteria Barrett: Okay, what was your first wife's name?

Judge Rose: First wife is Diane.

Anteria Barrett: Diane.

Judge Rose: Diane Rose.

Anteria Barrett: Okay, um and you just mentioned that you were remarried and your wife's name now is?

Judge Rose: Gazelle.

Anteria Barrett: Gazelle.

Judge Rose: G-A-Z-E-L-L-E, she is from Slidell, Louisiana.

Anteria Barrett: Slidell, Louisiana.

Judge Rose: So I took a big change from Oak Cliff bottom to Louisiana.

Anteria Barrett: Do yall have any children?

Judge Rose: Uh, my wife right now we don't, I had three kids by my first wife. I had a son and a daughter and I had a uh son and two daughters, my wife had two daughters, Gazelle did when we had got married and what we did was when we got married we got our whole idea was we don't have any step children we don't have, we got five kids we have t raise and uh that's what we went about the business of doing, raising all five of them as a family. Uh, unfortunately two

of my kids were killed. My son Charles Rose, Jr. was killed back in uh November 13,1992 while he was with friends, uh shot him in the back of the head over a drug deal. Uh then I had my daughter who was a sophomore at Southern University uh came home and she was killed a month later December 13, uh in a car wreck right here on I-20 and Polk Street and this all happened back in a 30 day period back in uh [19]'92. My son was killed November 13, 1992, my daughter was killed uh December 13,1992.

Anteria Barrett: I am sorry to hear that.

Judge Rose: [unintelligible] Yes

Anteria Barrett: You have five kids?

Judge Rose: Five kids.

Anteria Barrett: And we have Charles Rose, Jr.

Judge Rose: Charles Rose, Jr.

Anteria Barrett: Okay, what's what's the other four kids name?

Judge Rose: I have four four kids now, I mean five kids; okay let me get this all together.

Anteria Barrett: You gave us Charles Rose, Jr.

Judge Rose: Good thing I did not have any outside ones.

Classmate: Okay and Laughter.

Judge Rose: Charles Rose, Jr. First child, Toni Rose Milton was my next child, by the way I am very proud of Toni, Toni graduated from Paul Quinn and she just left the city planning commission for the City of Dallas. Uh then there the other one was Nicole, Nicole we uh, I call her Nikki uh she's the one that was killed. She graduated from, all three graduated from South Oak Cliff High School and then my wife's two daughters, I always say that as her two daughters, but my other two is LaChon Jacobs uh she graduated from uh Bishop Dunn and also the University of Texas in Austin and then there was Nina, Nina she's a Lovejoy. Nina Lovejoy uh she uh actually graduated from Bishop Dunn, she didn't want to go to college, she

just didn't want to go to college, her mother told her well you gonna go somewhere, so she ended up going to the military. She spent five years in the army and that's where she met her husband—now who is a career soldier uh 18 years and he stationed out in Fort Hood and we had an opportunity to go to Germany, they have three kids also, we had a opportunity to go to Germany uh twice while they was over there in stationed in Germany and that was good experience, that really a good experience. I had an opportunity to travel to five different countries in one summer and that was just driving, not really going walking or catching a bus. My brother, my son in law rented a bus off the military base, by the way if you are in the military they treat you real nice they they treat you real nice. We actually flew into London, we caught the train from London to Paris, then we caught a train from Paris to Germany, that's where they met us and we kind of stayed there in Frankford, Germany and uh he went and rented a bus cause they were stationed in Dunstop which is about 20 miles outside of Frankford uh and he rented a bus and we drove-up uh oh we drove-up to uh the Medline, Amsterdam had a good time really it was just something to see and if I don't if I talk a lo and I get you off bring me back okay.

(laughter)

Anteria Barrett: You mentioned you have three grandchildren, do you have any more?

Judge Rose: No, I have eight grandchildren.

Anteria Barrett: Can we have their names?

Judge Rose: Yes, uh LaChon had three—her oldest daughter is Jasmine Jacobs, the next is Jeffery Jacobs, uh my third one is Jay Jacobs those those now that's LaChon. She married to Jeffery Jacobs whose a Dallas Police Officer, been on the police force for twelve years. Uh then there's Nina Lovejoy whose husband is a career soldier,



whose first one name is uh uh Lauren Lovejoy and the second one name is Alexis Lovejoy and then they have a little son name Trent who is four years old, now my son who was killed back in [19] '92 he had two small children, he had two small children Darius uh Rose and Quintin Rose and so we had all and we are raising them all there all eight and we look out for all eight of them. Uh Darius and Quintin's mother is a teacher, she teaches English at South Oak Cliff High School and so, but uh we are one big happy family.

Anteria Barrett:

And who is Charles Rose now?

Judge Rose:

Uh, that's a good question, very good question. Well I uh at this point and time in my life I feel like that I'm uh a uh a young man who really want to make a [unintelligible]. I guess coming up in the life my mother always instilled in me to do something with you life in other words, son you only have one life do something with it and I guess that's why I struggled with my life. I did everything wrong I did everything wrong. I got married at a young age, I don't advise that, uh because the fact you don't know where you are, what you want to do. I got married at young age, then I start struggling, uh I was fortunate though I was very fortunate that I got a job at General Motors in 19, I started work for General Motors parts division back in 1966 and that kind of stabilized me because I you know as a young man I had a good job. Any time in fact I'm still employed at General Motors I've been on a leave of absence for fourteen years in fact at this point, now I'm getting ready to go back into the plant uh and retire from General Motors because when I left the plant I had 22 and 8 months in sonority, when I left in [19] '89. So uh that's one good things about unions they keep ya you they stabilize you. I mean I was just able to take a political leave in every four years I was elected uh re-elected I had to go write a letter renew that political leave and the General Motors did it by the uh I am a member of the UAW Local 816 uh we were

stationed out here, I mean the building was in Fort Worth General Motors parts division, they have now moved out from Alliance Airport in Rhome now at this time, but uh I just been very fortunate, I mean God has been good to me because the fact that uh He bless me and He kind of put things on my way when I didn't have a way. Uh been through a lot of changes uh uh I suffered with cancer in [19] '91 and then my kids died in [19] '92 and uh believe it or not it's a real tough experience and if you don't have God in your life I don't think any one can survive.

Classmates:

Amen

Judge Rose:

I'm just a big believer uh people see Charles Rose and they really don't know Charles Rose. I'm more into my maker or should I say believe strongly in God. I believe very strongly in my religion uh I know that uh I am only doing what I'm doing or the contribution that I can make that little contribution that I can make is because of God, has been good to me and He has given me the opportunity to do what I have done. Because I tell everyone that I'm just a common everyday person, I don't have any skills or anything that's so great that will shine, that's why when I go talk to class, I spend a lot of time in classrooms in Dallas lot of times and I always share with kids everybody think that you have to be born an Einstein to be successful, all you have to have is a will to be successful. Have a will and desire to be successful and uh it's not easy but a if you have a will and ask God to bless you, strengthen you uh you can be successful in life. Not that I'm successful (laughter), but uh uh I have uh I was very fortunate I been involved in politics, I guess that's where I met Dr. Gutierrez years ago uh, so I've always been involved in political arena. Uh ah I've ran for State Representative for about four four times. I'm just always running because I had a desire to do something and I wanted to give back see and that's one thing you've gotta learn, I don't care

what you do, you always think about giving back, I always, I got to think about this old time where this guy was building this bridge and he was building this bridge going over this uh this uh lake here and everybody say why uh you keep building this bridge and you know you are not going to be able to uh use this bridge by the time you get that bridge you'll be dead he said why are you continually to build that bridge he said I'm building this bridge for those whose coming behind me.

Classmates: Amen!

Judge Rose: So what I am saying to you always reach back and help someone and that's how you receive your blessings by helping others, you don't receive your blessings by sitting back going and grabbing everything that you possibly can. You receiving your blessing by giving back and helping others.

Anteria Barrett: So let me clarify this, when you say "give back" are you saying, "give back" to help others in general?

Judge Rose: Well, what I'm saying to you if you have an opportunity see and God will put opportunities in your way, He will put opportunities in your way and mean what I mean by it, might could be a student that you might just someone you might be in class that might not be as smart as you, that's might needs your help or someone and a lot of times you might not even, someone might be hungry, but you have little mo money that day, you give them lunch money, someone might ask you a direction and you refuse to do, you never know who your talking to.

Anteria Barrett: So just using this as in general purpose?

Judge Rose: As a gen...generally you always give back and you help wherever you can, involved in your community, going to your school where you graduated from High School when you go back home, going to your school and talking and telling the young people how you made it, sharing your life experience and that's when I say giving

back in that in that prospective. You can give back in many many ways, you can volunteer, uh I remember I am on the executive board of the boycotts of Dallas, uh I the family place, uh which is a abusive uh women's shelter uh, I've worked on their boards, I also worked with the Step Foundation uh a lot of you probably seen Don Williams name in the paper who was chairman of [unintelligible] we started an organization, in fact uh uh we started the organization and we met in South Dallas at the Martin Luther King Canter. Don Williams at the time was chairman at the time of the uh the Citizen Council and they wanted to do something in South Dallas and but uh they didn't know any thing about South Dallas and so therefore I met, when I when I met him I was introduced to him and we became hood friends and I took them all over South Dallas and showed them where South Dallas was and them what South Dallas was really about, because I was born and raised in South Dallas. And now Don is heading a foundation and they are building housing in South Dallas. You know, housing is one of he uh well, housing is in great demand for just minimum income family and that's one of the big big problems in our country is housing and so we are way behind, when it comes to producing housing and so he sight sought this from his experience being involved with [unintelligible] as chairman of the board and so he was developing housing now in South Dallas. When he first came in he was kind of scared, he thinking that people thought he was coming in to actually try to get in there to make money, but that was not his purpose at all he come in there to try to do something good in that particular part.

Anteria Barrett:

Okay; now we left off your aspect in General Motors and Silas has questions!

Judge Rose:

Okay!

Silas Panzu: Speaking of your political interest uh, yo.yo...your bio noted up through elementary up all the way up to your collegiate years, you went to a prodomentially Black school.

Judge Rose: Yes.

Silas Panzu: Uh, being a product of segregation, how do you think that affect your political career with your respect?

Judge Rose: Well, it really didn't; I think it really gave me a sense of being, whereas that uh, see back then when I came through school uh any segregation for uh me it was good for me because teachers didn't play, if they if I think I didn't come along now, I probably would have never made it because I think I would have had a different attitude, but back then when you come along during the [nineteen] sixties, when I came through uh uh you didn't get it, teachers didn't play with you, they'd knock you out, I mean they'd literally would knock you out (laughter). They just they just didn't play if there was no recourse. What I'm saying to you, you just couldn't jump up, you wouldn't even think of challenging a teacher. I wouldn't think of challenging a teacher, no way. You see because first of all I knew good-n-well what they would do if I challenged one of them, they gone knock me out and I really mean that, literally I mean male and female, they just didn't play and then they gonna get on the phone and call my parents and Lord God I didn't want that. You see because it wasn't a deal now where a parent would come to the school today would come to the school trying to say defend their child, it wasn't like that when I came along. If you got in trouble and if my, if a teacher had to call my parents no no no no it wasn't about what you did, or hey you in trouble and my mother had to come to the school one time for me (laughter) one time it was and the teachers made sure that you got it they made sure that you got it. The coaches, I mean the they were like your fathers, I mean they would beat you and love you

and get out there and talk to you on the field and they would still if you weren't doing right they would beat you down, it wasn't nothing you never thought about going home telling anybody either, it was just part of making a man out of you and I think because of that it helped me today. It help get me where I am today.

Silas Panzu: Alright, so since you spent time in the schools and uh four years as a teacher uh overall what's your assements, you know desegregation uh did it benefit African Americans any?

Judge Rose: Ahhh—no it really didn't I'm gone be very honest with you, I think one of the problems we have with integration was because the fact when you they start integrating the schools it kind of tool discipline out of the schools, I mean I think because of at at the point we was still very young and tender with integration and then the uh Anglo parents didn't want Black teachers beating ob their children or whupping and so it just sort of like took a lot out of it it tool a lot out of it. Why uh that s not to say that it's not good, I think it's good today, I mean I think were comin' on uh have come a long way. I think that it's good because the fact is that were all one people, were all one people see and I think that it is really really good that we have integration today because of the fact that we finally come a come to the sense that we gone live in this world together and we gone die in this world together. When you go over to Iraq or when you go to Kuwait or when you go to Afghanistan they don't say it was a Black soldier that died, they always say it was an American soldier no matter what color you are, you are an American soldier, see so, but when I speak of integration back during my time, I'm speaking of the fact fact that when it first happened it really didn't happen it because the fact discipline and I think that's what we got to work on, let me back back because I taught for four years at South Oak Cliff and one of the reasons I

taught at South Oak Cliff, I wanted that school was to get some experience, but what I was very disappointed, I was very disappointed in the school systems because school systems had lost their discipline. Teachers uh back when you see male teachers walking the hall because when I was in here coming along male teachers walked the halls, boy you got your act together, but to see male teachers walk the hall and see children doing all kinds of things, talking and saying anything and he just keep walking and you know that just rub me, I was from the old school and I was I was just disappointed when I started teaching, uh because I said this is just not in fact one of the problems I had in the classroom, when I finally decided that this is something I am not going to do uh I was teaching a class and a child student just kept jumping up and kept jumping up and I kept telling him son sit down, let me get my roll on and this uh this this student student just kept talking and talking, I say son why don't you just hit the door, gone to class, gone to the halls, but by the time I he got he had an opportunity he thought he gone come back and tell me to f myself, I just don't play that, and uh I had a confrontation with wasn't no confrontation, I just kind of knocked him out.(laughter) The principle called me to the class and just chewed me out, talking about well doc you know better than this and you know you can't , but you know what I told him and this was Dr. Tall, George Tall who was my eighth grade homeroom teacher, but I was working for him at time in South Oak Cliff and I told him Dr. Dr. Tall I have children up here, but I say I'm not gonna misuse anybody's child, but if a child puts himself in a place of a man, I gone treat him like a man.

Classmates:

Amen

Judge Rose: So, if any body mess with me, you stay in a child's place; don't come here with me with no crap. (laughter) I mean I don't mean to be, I not bad, I'm not nothin' a a it's just the way it should be.

Classmates: Amen! Yeah!

Judge Rose: It's respect and that's one thing we've got to learn and understand respect. I don't care uh the only way you can get respect is by giving respect.

Silas Panzu: True indeed, uh but uh since were on people and uh you stated your comments as far as integration uh what party do you think best represents the interest of minority's?

Judge Rose: That's a good question, I am Democrat.

Silas Panzu: Umm

Judge Rose: And I been a Democrat, but see you don't understand everybody don't understand Lincoln who actually freed the slaves was actually a republican, in fact Blacks many many years were part of the Republican party during the Louisiana purchase and all that, we had Black Senators that were republican, was elected officials until they came back with this reinstruction and then killed off every just killed all Black elected officials and that's where you come in with the Ku Klux Klan and all of this and just kind of scared everybody all off and that's why uh today we didn't actually Blacks didn't come to the Democratic party until Franklin Roosevelt Franklin Roosevelt when Blacks actually came unto the Democratic party see also, but now what I am saying to you at today the Democratic party best uh interpreted philosophy we as Black people...

Silas Panzu: Why do you feel that way?

Judge Rose: Uh unh?

Silas Panzu: Why do you feel that way?

Judge Rose: Well number one is because the fact their programs uh republicans are okay, but then I am not being critically, I know we got a lot of



republicans in here, but what I am saying is their philosophy is big money, I mean it's for the rich. I mean their programs and you look at the programs that they project, the programs that they push now goo...goo...good example now today, I'm not really and I really don't, I'm not being critical and I don't want you to think um that I'm not as uh uh I'm not anti-Republican or any thing of that nature, but I'm just speaking the truth and the way I see it in which does not necessarily have to be right the way I see it, but you look at it right today, our administration, the Republican Administration is uh much more concern with a war and what our economy is going to pieces our economy is going to pieces, in fact uh I was coming on the radio and I heard them talking about uh they questioned uh Bush's motive about far as fighting a war and they was saying that he is not addressing the economy, yet uh they was, someone ay well we got uh Paul O'Neill who was coming in and he's gonna address the economy, he's coming to Dallas today and that was uh uh the answer for that , but what were saying, the President President need to address the economy. We have more people Laid off today, than we've ever had in a many many years. You can say what you want about Bill Clinton, one thing about him, he kept people working, he kept people working and he developed jobs and people made money behind it.

Silas Panzu: Where gonna kind of jump topics to your job description, basically what is a typical day in your court life?

Judge Rose: Typical day in my court is um uh, I been on the bench for fourteen years as Justice of the Peace okay, now those of you who know what a Justice of the Peace do you know...

Silas Panzu: I feel you!

Judge Rose: ...you just got to worry about what I say. Justice of the Peace is basically is a is a judge in small claims court...

Silas Panzu: Umkay.

Judge Rose:

...jurisdiction of my court is five thousand dollars, meaning the fact that you can sue someone for up to five thousand dollars or you can be sued in there for up to five thousand dollars. Uh we also do uh forcible [unintelligible] which they are now changing the language from forcible [unintelligible] to exactly what they are evictions. (laughter) So we do we we have a open jurisdiction over evictions uh at one time in Dallas County before we start having this big political fight, uh we did truancies uh that's one of the things I really enjoyed, working with young people doing truancies, things not doing the school you see, there is a law that you have to go to school and you can't miss no more than five days out of school, if you do the School District has to file on your parents, uh but then how you know and uh just so happen that the area I represent was South Dallas, East Dallas, West Dallas, and all the poor area before it came to truancies and so we had a lot of problems with parents, parents we just had problems with parents, uh parents just wasn't doing their jobs. Being a child the biggest problem is and that's why I say is the school teacher who let a child slip be and if any of you others decide to go into teaching always if you see a child that's not able to read, stop them right there, stop'em. What I found was a lot of the problems with truancies was children in the 11<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup> grade 9<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup> can't read, they can't read and I had a little article on my bench and every time I could tell when a child was having problems and I'd ask them to read that and they can't read it, but the problem that you have this child passed along just sort of passed along and then when they get up in the 8<sup>th</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup> grade and he can't compete, what he does, he just don't go to school or if he do go into class he's creating problems, he's not really into the work because the kids don't have the ability to do it. He can't read, if he can't read he can't do nothing. I'm gone be very honest with you, if you can't

read you can forget it because that's what it's all about being able to read and that's good communication.

Silas Panzu: Alright.

Judge Rose: You have to be able to read.

Silas Panzu: Uh, well sticking to more along the lines of your job aspect, what is your salary?

Judge Rose: My salary, uh, not enough, I guarantee it. (laughter) Right now I make something like eighty-five thousand, ah maybe a little more, but uh in that range, it's up between eighty five-ninety- thousand.

Silas Panzu: I understand uh Justices of the Peace also conducts weddings, do you get paid to conduct weddings or what is there a standard fee, if any?

Judge Rose: There's a standard fee, we have in Dallas County, we charge like anybody that come to the court fact I got a wedding today, uh (laughter) anybody come to the court, uh it's fifty dollars, now if I go out and sometimes I do go out and I always try to stay in my area, I go to Duncanville, Desoto, uh my offices is located in Lancaster now, it used to be Downtown [Dallas], when when I say Downtown [Dallas] right by Town View Magnet School before uh we had a commissioner who went crazy and stupid to tell you the truth. Imagine cut out the courts whereas we had in Dallas County we had eight precincts now we only have five and so, but anyway I uh do my weddings in that particular area, sometimes I might go to a uh anywhere in the State of Texas, I'm eligible to marry anybody anywhere in the State of Texas. I charge one hundred dollars if I come out to say say about a Saturday you want to get married. I married a person at The Gazebo's out in Cedar Hill [Texas] about a month age and uh people want different things and I always go out, but uh that money believe it or not I keep, uh fact any money that you make as a Justice of the Peace marring people that's your

money, you have to report to Internal Services at the end of the year.

Silas Panzu: Do you make more uh at the weddings than your average day salary?

Judge Rose: Nahh, (laughter) I do alright. I do alright. Then to I always [unintelligible] I don't try to remember the exact amount because we are hard to tell because every time I turn around they give you a sliding scale, but uh you do you can do pretty good, I mean especially I have done better where I where I am located now in Lancaster then I did when I was on 8<sup>th</sup> Street because I was hired in on a uh building with probation department and another judge was up stairs so it was two of us competing, where I am now I am there by myself and I had a lot of people come from Desoto, Duncanville, and Lancaster, believe it or not people from Ellis County come up to get married with the building I am uh uh it's the it's the thing we do marriage license and we also do the birth certificates and things that nature in the building.

Silas Panzu: Alright, I'm just gonna uh ask you two more questions brief questions and uh were going to get to uh Monica, uh I noticed in your bio it didn't state that you had a Jurisdoctate uh and uh JP's aren't required, do you think they should uh be required to have it?

Judge Rose: That's a good question, that's a very good question, uh I don't think so because the fact is believe it or not my degree that I received here, my Masters Degree in Urban Studies that will qualify me to actually serve as a JP, uh the reason I say that is because the fact that my area that I where I represent it gives me an opportunity to know what's available, to know what agencies because a lot of people come before me have all kinds of problems and so therefore we are able to pass them on to a different agency, let them know what is available. Yall I can [unintelligible] and then too one good thing about it if a judge, if any lawyer come

before my bench and he's arguing a case I always ask him doc what's show me the law and it's up to the attorney to get the law and say judge the law says so and so so and so it's up to him to show you, you might not know it, but it's up to him to prove his case and so if he don't know the law, he the one that's a problem has a problem, not the judge. You see and I just think if it is the and by my community involvement gives me a better much better feel and much better background than exactly dealing with my constituents from the Justice of the Peace.

Silas Panzu: Alright!

Monica Esquivel: When have you, you say that you have spent a lot of time in the community being involved, so what is your opinion of leadership? What is that?

Judge Rose: Uh, I think leadership you basically do by doing. Being involved, working with others. Uh leadership sometimes people want to put you in a leadership position and I always well, but you actually you earn that by your involvement and by what you are doing. I mean otherwise anybody in here can be a leader. Anybody can be a leader, some are more shy than others, others kind of wait and follow others, and then there those in here who really want to be leaders, they want to be out front, some some got, that's why you have some in the Marines, some in the Army, and some in Navy, the Marines [unintelligible], see, but uh I think that that's your involvement and working with the community, learning skills and get those skills uh and developing and that's how you actually become part of leadership, working with others.

Monica Esquivel: Right, so what would you say uh which is the most effective African American Political Organization Today?

Judge Rose: Uh, what city?

Monica Esquivel: National

Judge Rose: Uh you probably have the uh the Congressional Black Caucus. Uh my good friend Eddie Bernice Johnson who is chairman of the Congressional Black Caucus at this time, they do really make a difference. They are made up of Black elected officials from all over the country who are congressman, who have served on congress. Uh you know our politics is changing with uh Black community, uh there's no longer any Martin Luther King's uh H...Brown, Louis Farrakhan, Farrakhan is [unintelligible] those, I mean those were people who actually uh people could rally around could actually g...it's totally different now and a Black elected official can not get elected and whereas they used to get elected, I'm talking about Black this Black that and now you have to produce, I mean you have to be leader meaning the fact is see politics is about money, mean just being very honest with you it's about money and it's about economic power, that's what it's about and you can't actually you have to be able to produce, you have to be able to create jobs, you have to be able to create opportunities for people if you elect someone to office, that that's person par...particular job it all depends on what that is, it's to be able to create opportunities, to be able to create jobs you can't go around, we have and I always tell everybody and I get very upset because the fact that we have one our County Commissioner here in Dallas now full of crap (laughter) full of crap!

Classmate: What's his name?

Judge Rose: John Wiley Price.

Monica Esquivel: Oh!

Judge Rose: I mean what I am saying to you is this, he built his ability uh he built that's where he is actually talking about more getting out marching, protesting Black this Black that, that's how he got his reputation, I mean he been in office going on twenty years, but today I mean that's why I say a person basically basically

shouldn't serve to long in a elected position because the fact is today any time that you go around as a Black elected official cuttin' out came out we had uh and I'm tellin' you politics is powerful and I'm being very honest with you. Any time that you have, we would have the City Council seat, we would have had five Blacks on the City Council, but he felt like he could come out and go against another Black for a white Anglo and so what I'm saying' he say well Judge well what you mean...no what I'm saying' to you is that you have to empower your people, you see and that would have empowered us to have five seats on the City Council, that would have empowered, okay, but for him to come out and say well Judge do you think he had the power for him to cut out a seat, well see the thing is any time you divide the power any time you divide the people, any time you have leader like your commissioner who comes out against another Black, most the Blacks sit back and say well, hey I don't know I don't know they ain't got it together and they don't vote, they don't participate so that's and then to come out and hey, I'm not being and everybody say well Judge it's better, we came back and done redistricting and cut out a Black Justice of the Peace district, just cut it out, just cut it out and talking about the numbers are not there, so what I'm saying to you, you suppose to empower your people we had fight fought and died for these seats and in Dallas County we had two Justice of the Peace seats two and we just redistricted in 1995 uh [19] '94 [19] '95 that's when we create the Hispanic district and so we had a Hispanic District and two Black Justice of the Peace and how we end up with the the extra Black Justice of the Peace district was Judge Jones who was at that time in one of the other precinct ran against uh an elected official who has been in Dallas many many many many years, Judge Richburg ran against him and won by twenty-five votes, twenty-five votes he won that so we

ended up with two seats and that was all the over the State of Texas Blacks doesn't have any more than two [unintelligible] one JP district in Dallas, we suppose to two and this man came and cut out one of them, cut just cut it out, he cut out a historical Black district that was earn by George Allen my predecessor George Allen who was Mayor Protemp and let me tell yall how this is a really interesting story here, George Allen ended up being Justice of the Peace, he got appointed to that seat in [19] '74 and took the seat in 1975, how he ended up with the seat, George Allen the Mayor Protem, City of Dallas and he had he had also was promoting a commuting tax because at the time whites were leaving Dallas and so he was so so that was a big tax base that was a big tax base they was losing so he he came up with, but he was very very strong not only in the Black community because you know he could have got elected just from the Black community, but the Angelo community all had the utmost respect for George L. Allen. At the time Dallas was not ready they felt like he was going to be elected Mayor of the City of Dallas, they wasn't ready for it in 1975, so they created the Justice of the Peace district and appointed George Allen to the city and that's how he became Justice of the Peace and not only after he was appointed Judge Still who is still serving now was appointed they was the first two Black Justice of the Peace districts, I mean I mean first two Black Justice of the Peace we had. Okay, after that that's how Judge Jones came on about five or six years later and ran and won by twenty-five votes, so that gave us two districts and to come in and as an elected official and cut out an historical Black district, that's our History, that's our History, you don't do that and like if the numbers ani't there you lose, if the numbers ain't there, but if you got control one of your own shouldn't be the ones that's cutting it out. In fact we had a meeting and the Black Elected Official and Congresswoman



Eddie Bernice Johnson asked the Commissioner Price to please don't cut out this district don't don't kill this Black district because this is too important because we gone lose already because the numbers were losing the numbers Hispanics numbers are going up, our numbers are going down. Okay, you know what he told us, I didn't come here to ask yall what yall want, I didn't come here to listen to you, I come here to tell yall what I'm gone do.

Classmates: mmmmm

Judge Rose: And that's the honest to God truth.

Monica Esquivel: Do you think that you said you know empowering your people was important, do you think that that's the most impressing pressing issue facing African Americans today? Is empowerment thru their lack of faith?

Judge Rose: No, I don't think that that's the most important thing. I think the most important thing in our community facing us is education, is education and it's because the fact if you don't have a good education you can't do nothing. Education is the key for anything, see if you can educate your people with good training, good manners, good skills that person can be self-sufficient, but if you don't have the skills or the training of education you gone be out here on the streets selling drugs, you gone be here out in the streets trying to knock somebody out in the head because the fact I don't care how much education you have you want the same thing I want.

Monica Esquivel: um

Judge Rose: Only thing is that I worked, sacrificed, went to school to get it and yet you want to take it from me.

Dr. Gutierrez: What about finance?

Judge Rose: You see see that's what it's about it's about education, that's the most important issue facing our community today.

Monica Esquivel: Okay, who is the most effective African American politician today on a national level?

Judge Rose: And you see that's the thing we don't have any one single individual like we use to, like I say we don't have any Martin Luther King's we don't have those today. It's it's a variety there's a lot of good people uh uh uh uh Congressman Eddie Bernice Johnson is a is a excellent Congressman, uh Jesse Jackson, Jr. good Congressman, uh the Mayor of uh the new in fact the Mayor of New Orleans the new young Mayor of New Orleans he's a good good excellent leader uh so there's many of them today whereas uh back then you only had one you only had a Martin Luther King that every had to rally around, but now you can have Black Elected Officials all over this country, who are making strong strong contributions today.

Monica Esquivel: Okay, what are the underpinnings of tension between African Americans and Hispanics today?

Judge Rose: I don't think that is, I think that you have to learn to work with each other because we are the strength, we are the power. I've I've have had to learn Dr. Gutierrez had kind of help me in uh I've been able to work with the one of the things I don't like to get caught up in that is Hispanic Politics uh I'm a good friend of Roberto Alonzo, uh also I am a good friend of Domingo Garcia and so what I have to learn to we worked together when Domingo Garcia ran for Mayor, I went around working for Domingo Garcia, uh I also supported Roberto Alonzo because I was the 23<sup>rd</sup> Senatorial SDEC uh I represented the 23<sup>rd</sup> Senatorial district, uh I stepped down and supported Roberto Alonzo uh for the SDEC that's the uh State Democratic Executive Committee uh so and I've learn to work ah with other Hispanics, I have had to learn that and I think that our big thing we all want the same thing were just sort of like the new kids on the block, we don't realize our strength just by coming

together and it's not strength to say coming together were talking about pulling political power together, pulling political power together, not for any detriment or any thing of that nature, but we need each other, the Blacks and the Hispanics need each other, to be very honest with you, we really do.

Monica Esquivel: Okay, what is your greatest accomplishment and disappointment or do you have any?

Judge Rose: Sigh! Good question, Good question. You know I guess I don't really feel and that's my big problem, I don't really feel really because I'm not I guess because maybe it's my ego, I guess I don't have one. I don't know anything I want to brag on that I done. I guess my biggest thing that ...my greatest disappointment is the fact that I guess would be the fact that my two kids died and I wasn't able to be with them, uh raise them or be around them because most of the time when I was going to school struggling they was being raised, they was coming up and even though their mother and I always together, but I just sometime I really that's my biggest disappointment is not being able to spend as much time with my daughter as I would have love too have had with them because I was struggling trying to get through school, uh trying to work everyday and trying to accomplish things, didn't realize the importance of being with them. I didn't other words if I had had a good job, if I was older, uh I had children at such a young age, your struggling trying to find your way in life and their being raised and growing up and you don't understand or appreciate those things until you get older in life how much or how important it is to spend time with your children.

Monica Esquivel: The last question, you were once on the Wilmer-Hutchins School Board, how do you feel about the lawsuit that's being held against them now?

Judge Rose: Ahh, that's a you know, the Wilmer-Hutchins School District a lot of people get a misconception of the Wilmer-Hutchins School District, Wilmer-Hutchins it's a good district, it really is a good district, I lived in Wilmer-Hutchins School District and uh I got to serve on the board for seven years and that was love of my life, I was believe it or not if it paid the same thing I would much rather be on the Wilmer-Hutchins School Board than being a JP because you are working with young people, you are working with young people . I don't think that they think that they are going to work out the problem as far as uh the lawsuit or state going to come in because that's an important district. People don't realize that Wilmer-Hutchins was the first school district to start a three-year-old program, I was on the board. We started a three year old program and we took three year olds into our school districts and trained them and that's where it really starts, that's when they really need it at a young age only way they can really get in high school and Jr. High hey at that point you can tell anything.

Dr. Gutierrez: Judge, I think the question was about the Voting Rights Act, that it is at-large and that theirs no Hispanic seat I think that that's the question not E A stuff.

Judge Rose: Oh, that's what you're referring to!

Monica Esquivel: Yes, I'm Sorry.

Judge Rose: The uh the lawsuit that they have now where the Hispanics have filed a lawsuit, well hey you know what I don't see a problem with it. I mean as far as I concerned, but I it's and I think the big problem is in talking to some of the people on the board, is just a lot lot of Hispanics haven't ran and that has been the big problem and the most of the Hispanic, now you have more of them living out there, but most of them out there when I was on the board came out of the City of Wilmer a lot of them came out of the City of Wilmer. Uh the um Magical's uh who actually stays in Hutchins

now she's an attorney, uh but she never ran for the school board, but I do think they need, they deserve representation o the Wilmer-Hutchins School Board just like everyone else.

Dr. Gutierrez: Judge two quick follow-up questions on the issue of the most effective leader and the most effective organization would you answer that at the local level, Black politician Black organization, who is the most effective at the local level?

Judge Rose: Doc. Dr. Gutierrez, it basically the same thing I don't think well right now I must say in the most effect... well I don't want to say effective, but the most popular and that one of those different things when you say effective and popular is John Wiley Price, is more popular, he's always in the paper, he's been able to capture the news and uh that's his game, but now being effective, because the fact is when I say being effective I think anytime that you have a leader that doesn't pull people together you have problem, I think the biggest problem with us is leadership wise in Dallas, in the Black community because we are not together. Well Senator Royce West, Senator West who is very strong, but they don't work we all don't, but you have to come together. Eddie Bernice Johnson strong individual, but you have to come together. If the Black community and the Black Elected Officials would have come together in the City of Dallas you can get any thing you want.

Dr. Gutierrez: And the local organization most effective?

Judge Rose: Believe it or not since the Progressive Voters League, we really don't have an effective Black organization in the Black political arena base organization.

Dr. Gutierrez: And that's one default right, the Progressive Voters League is no longer?

Judge Rose: It's default right, it was.

Dr. Gutierrez: Anybody else had a quick question? Here's one quick..

Classmate: Real quick, um I 'm aware of the situation that concurred with the um commissioner and you know and the taking out of the court or what have you, how has the relationship between you and he transpired since then and d you think that he may come back around and try to heal wounds or whatever?

Judge Rose: You know I don't think he will come around because the fact is he doesn't have the sense or intelligence to come around. I mean he really don't (laughter) I'm gone be very honest with you it never should have happened in the first place. It never should have been, never should have been, he it's a personal vendetta against me and you never use your community or you position of power for personal vendetta's he didn't he think he think he was trying to hurt me, but the fact is he didn't hurt me he hurt the Black community because he took away leadership from the Black community. So I I don't see him coming around you see a lot of people don't understand commissioner and I always tell everybody Commissioner Price got problems, for the simple reason he don't really seem to understand and doesn't think way most of us think uh I think let me put it this way I I been married my life about thirty-three years, got a wife, kids, grandkids when you don't have a wife, have kids you don't, when you eat your whole family eats, you kind of lose your whole prospective on life and what you should really be about.

Classmate: You think that's the reason he's not married?

Judge Rose: No, well I'm not getting into that, whatever it is?

(laughter)

Anteria Barrett: Again, thank you Judge Rose for coming out and spending time with us for this interview!

Judge Rose: Okay [unintelligible].

[Clapping and combined talking amongst Judge Rose and Classmates]