

TAPE OF LYNETTA JONES ...with Tish Leroy  
Taped probably sometime in end of Nov or December, 19777.....

(As we were ending a conversation about the lands of Guyana and our own agricultural project -- I saw she was drifting back as she sometimes did, and so I flipped on the tape recorder at this spot in our conversation.

"It was South of Rio...they just simply lit out like they did going across the plains. They just lit out and went to Brazil (talking about the first settlers of Brazil that farmed the country). They lopped a piece of jungle and (took) what else was granted by that government at the time, which was rocky enough.. and they practically fed the nation of Brazil with their agricultural efforts. There was a period when they did. They never departed or went back to the states... they went there after the civil war... They wouldn't conform to any surrender. They just pulled out their families.

That just came out on the tip of my tongue, about that agricultural district there.. it's a city, Sao Paulo... in that neighborhood, and it is probably the most prosperous city in Rio itself. And, it ran a.. and all of a sudden their jungles go dry as a desert because they didn't put back in the soil as they took out. They thought you could do it year after year, but you cannot do that.

If we make that mistake, we'll end up on the rocks too. But I understand they are not: that they are studying the compost... and somebody's making the compost."

(Part of tape, briefly, is not distinguishable...then she picks up again--about Jimmy Jr. She realized she had not given me a story about him, and wanted to recall something for Jimmy... she loved all of the children very much and was concerned to try to get something down for them...and she used to say that: "for" them, realizing that one day they would look to her words.. however, she never quite got them all down.. but she always expressed her love for them all equally...)

"He (speaking of Jim Jones, her son --taking little Jimmy Junior, his adopted son, up to a resort area) took him up to Sugar Loaf...you heard of Sugar Loafmountain? It's built like a loaf of bread.. had up there recreation for children... slides, and all that sort of thing. It's a hard cadaver in the first place, and you can imagine, up there on that slice how much higher it looks to a little wee one. Well, he's a hesitating on takin' off, because he's be takin' off right toward the big drop, you know... but no danger of reaching that far out.. he must have been 3½ or 4. (time lapse on tape) And from where he was perched it was looking more gruesome all the time and everything, and father.. like all other proud father's (Jim Jones, her son)was sayin', "go ahead kid. Everybody else is jumpin... Everybody else is sliding down; it's real fun. You're a big man now, son," he said(to Jimmy Jr.)He turned around (Jimmy did) and he said, "Dad.. I not a man... I a little boy."

(Did he finally go down?) Yah, he went...  
Of course he (Jim Sr.) could talk him out of his eye teeth... Big Jim would talk you out of your eye teeth, you know... He said that statement.. he brought it over (put it across) two or three times: he'd try (Big Jim would) to make the challenge, you know... but he (little Jim) wouldn't take the slike... then he would -- that time, he just turned around and said, "But Dad, I not a man... I a little boy."  
I said, "That ought to have taught you something."  
Look at it realistically: I'm not a man, I a little boy... *EE-3-SSS,*

(I'll bet Jimmy was a cute little kid)

Yah, he was... I used to get so mad at him... he aggravated me worse'n any of em...(fondly) he's a dear... though he'd try something foxy just to get caught at it... (at this point she was chucking, in recollection.) nothingelse. He was just a chivester (?) ... God, you'll have some well peppered tapes if I keep on saying bad words. (--conversation between us talking about the cussing...)

(Talking about JJ's concern for little Jimmy in the rearing of him:)  
"...to see that he never got it inhis head that he was discriminated against, and in the doing of it I think he condoned perhaps more than he should have."

204 Then another cute little thing he did...(reference to Jimmy Jr.)  
One time I was a holdin' him and he run his hand over my arm and he said... and then he ran his hand over his... he said, "your hand is not like mine." He said it kind of sad... I said, "Well, the only difference I see is that yours is more beautiful... and nice and tall like that... mine are shapin up to a bunch of wrinkles, and thg're old..." and I went ahead to discourse upon the subject...

And he said, "Did I have a brown mommy?"

I said, "Yes, but you was fortunate among boys, you had a brown mommy, but a white mommy, also, later on, evidently who loved you somewhat better; because she's going to stick around for a while it seems to me like... and I don't know what the circumstances might have been with this other mommy, but anyway... it turned out to your advantage, I told him, ...so that was the subject matter we discussed about his race.

And then Marcy had a cute sog she sang about his cradle song, (My Little Black Baby)... I'll be daggoned.. she made it up from scratch, I guess.. Brown Baby wasn't it.. (Black baby on the recording) ..well, that was after his cradle song, and he couldn't hardly have found any fault with his makeup or his coloring or anything of the kindwhen she sprang that one on him, because it was really beautiful.

I think the other boys figured thg was slighted for not being a brown baby... I know I've heard them semetimes remark to that effect... when they wez smaller.

.....  
When I was a top authority in Indiana's womens prisons they always liked to get you involved... both sides wez like that... try to get you involved in the race questions to see what kind of a livin goose they could make out of you, I guess, and I was much too danged smooth for them. There was some of them would start into a deep emotional spasmodical... all the trouble with this race problem.. this prisoner who would absolutely prejudiced against the black race... I threw up a hand and boy, I suppose I was the only one that ever did say anything ... (tape not clear) ...rest of them were kind of meally mouthed, you know, and I said, "shut your mouth God dammit! I roared.. prejudice is not peculiar to one race. You got as much damn prejudice as any of the rest of them. The white race has got it, you've got it... and you both better get rid of it!! Boy, that was all I heard about prejudice...

This has got nothin' to do with the book, but it's another thing that happened to.. I was steeped in adventure up tomy neck all the time... in the state bad gals... they thought they was really tough. Till they had

EE-3-SSS<sub>2</sub>

some run in's and experiences with me, and then that's the thing that sold them on Mabel, I didn't skeer for nothin'.

And they'd never seen anything that wasn't skeer of them... you know, and I'd play with them just like they was a bunch of kids, too. I got carried away and never did get my book written that I went there to write.

(an aside on the tape..Lyneta was watching Esther..."Now she's not saying a word..Esther was reading a typed page)

It was really adventurous...

Every cryin' thing they'd think of, I would think of one better. and mainly there was no stupid gal, even if they was prisoners.. they had to be sort of keen to stay out such as the time they did... but they was always returnin' till I went went there ...and that just about put the cadaver on that. Cause I'd fix them up with such a desire to want to set the world afire...that when they'd go out they wouldn't never want to break parole.. and there was a scandalous turnover before I went.. and for years it was just something they expected. But I didn't expect them to return.

The first thing... I didn't know from goofus about the prisons.. cept what I'd read... except I'd thought that wometime in an idle moment I'd go around and look into it.. and write sometime in the book, you know, so I came to the point of where I was ready to do that. But in order to do it, I wanted to be where I'd be in direct handling of prisoners. So that there wasn't no guards around the edges and all of that. You was there and your wits had to be what took care of your situation, you know.

303 And so, I was a writin' away on something else -- I'd just sit down at the desk and these two gals seemed to be in a heated argument, you know, in the recreation room. I thought, Well, when you flatten each other, well I'll get up there and see why you did so... and it just kept a getting hotter and hotter, you know.. Every once 'n a while I'd say: you got some slight argument? you girls? Well, ask me and I'll tell you the straight of it. --kiddin' 'em -- all you got to do is ask me and I'll tell you who's right.

Well, I didn't anticipate they'd take me up on this, but they did. They come easin up, you know. They said, Mrs. Jones we want you to answer this for us 'cause we've argued for months about it. And I said, "Well, what's the questinn?"

They said: Is it more of a sin to kill your husband when he's a lookin at you? than it is to kill him when he's asleep? Well, I want you to know that for a minute --that was--normally, that if I'd give it two scoops of thought, that it would of thrown me for a loop. Finally I sañ: Well, he's no less dead for all of that, is he? either one of them? Well, that cooked their argument right there. I said, now the way I see it, he's no less dead for all of that: neither one of them is...

(How'd you happen to take the prison job?)

Well, I'd just resigned from a job I'd held for '17 years and I thought that 17 years was long enough to work at the same task, That was the corporation. I'd organized their unions when they said it couldn't be done, and hadn't been done for years, and they was about the only unorganized, private own corporation, I guess, family owned... and my mind just suddenly

EE-3-SSS<sub>3</sub>

made up to organize that union. And boy, I mean I did it single handed.. (tape not clear --three points or something)...I did it single handed, practically. Of all the skeered people, they were skeered. Boy when they'd see me twist the tiger's tail, and everything, and when everytime when I showed there -- they'd stand for me like an iron wall... they had a great respect for me, you know, and even if the union spoke a little hostile to me, they'd get up and file out of a bargaining at contract time, which is the most important time there is. And when they got a mule in from Kentucky one time, he thought he was the top of the pile... he was with the International, you know, in the union, UAW-CIO. and he said: Jones, you're a damn little Hitler!

They proposed something and I said, I won't go for it. He said, you're only ONE. I said, "today, I'm forty. I still won't go for it and you can't make it through without me," and I just grinned, you know. And he says, "why wouldn't you, you know... that's of course taboo, you know, to ever disagree, you know, in front of your corporate factor. I said because it's wrong, and you know it's wrong and I won't have it.

Well, they was going to strike, I guess, that was the issue itself: they was going to strike, but they wanted to strike only the foundry as they'd done for years, and let that one corporate body be one body with any corporate strain -- let it suffer and starve, while the others, you know, without unemployment benefits... and I said, if we strike one, we strike all. That was a blow to the corporation, you know that. They said: this is ridiculous to have them all a starving. It ends the strike, quicker I said. You put somebody out there that knows how to get unemployment benefits... and I'm that somebody. They're not going to have to starve with me out on the street. And, as it stands now, they're all gonna pray they do, and I mean I'm gonna have unemployment benefits for all of em out there and they don't belong to the union or if they do... it's all the same difference to me.. and under the law I think it construes as being involved in labor disputes, and that's all the further you have to go. "Oh, it's ridiculous." he said...

And I come right back and said, Well, I'll never vote for it. And he said, Jones, he said, you're a dog damned little Hitler.... and when he said that the company sprung up, the company did, and mind, there was three plants represented there, you know. Many men on each plant bargaining crew. They raised up and filed out. Old Bill said, Where the hell do you think you're a goin? he said -- they was educated people, you know, and he was a hillbilly (chuckling)...

Let us know, he said (apparently referring to the spokesperson) Let us know when you get ready to speak respectfully to "our" Mrs. Jones... and we will return to the bargaining table.

They offered me every job they had in the area...from public relations to.. they was really briefing me with elections, you know... (they wanted you out of the union -- out of their hair..) They wanted me out of the union and furthermore they'd do anything -- any damned thing they could do for me.

(did you elect the prison position yourself, or did they offer it to you?)

Well, ths had nothing to do with this outfit that I worked for for 17 years, it was -- the only connection that we had with that prison was that the outgoing custodial authority was -- had been a congressman and then, being on the wrong side of the political fence to what I was... and Jim and her were acquainted. But I don't recall for the life of me whether it had any

EE-3-5554

thing more to do with than just an introduction.. between us whether he did any more for her... not normally -- we did not; we stood on our own merits, both of us, and.. so I don't know but anyway that was a shock to the whole collection of society when I went in there to write.. but the gals in there didn't even keep me \_\_\_\_\_ and all this, and then boy...

Whenever I'd have me a tilt with 'em I'd just out-tough em.. you know, and they thought that was keen, the gals did; but the old woman that had been a piddlin' along with it for years, why, actin as officers you know, because I hollered and fired the officers, you know, they thought that was -- had to be done by routine, but it didn't. This whole outfit finally had -- on the outside of the city was CORRECTIONAL INSTITUTION... And I said..told them to take it down. and I tell you, they'd burn down that thing on an average of once a month... and then they'd haul 'em in to me at all hours of the night; they'd come in just barrellled up and maddern a hornet.

I didn't say anything.. I just received them.. signed in, you know...

She said (referring to one of the prisoners brought in) "you'll find out what tough is...

I said, well, they'll issue a diploma when I get through educatin them and that.. but they generally get theirs with the hot places when I get through with them...and I just laughed in their face.. she was mean; she was mean as she could be.. but I said in the mean time, "go to sleep.. in the future we can solve this because it is now midnight and I wouldn't mind sleep -- how about you? Well, she'd like to too.. and ehtn no matter what they wanted -- shoot their mouth off -- about, well ~~ixwas~~ I was always there with more, you know, and seemed like the answers just came out of the... in the palm of my hand... you know... as if they were written there..all the way.

(Did Jim come out to do a service as chaplain of the prison?)

Um hum.....

(Did he do that regularly or just one time --he came out?)

Well, he was goin to do it regular and I talked him out of it.. I said no, they will try to criticize you for what I do, and try to cross you up with what I do and aggravate the life out of both of us so what the hell.. we never did work together. we generally worked separately. Because I talked him out of it.. because I could tell as sson as I hit the deck, you know, that some of 'em would like to do us both in. One year's time I was at the head of it, you know. Of the custodial position ...and everything inside the fence, and

They had a head up thæe at the correctional institution that thought she had it right onthe facts; that she was on an in moreso than I was with the politicians, and I hadn't bothered to be in with them and I never did. But I just stood my ground on every damned issue and I never did have any body in my corner particularly, but I'd go into the union romms and the courts and anywhere else.. and without a lawyer or anything else... and I never lost anything out of it...

TAPE ENDS AROUND #480...the broadcast over which the tape was recorded continues on...was a KGO tape, I had been auditing a program for Sandy in SF...we wez listening for newsblurbs about JJ or temple..