

# Finding Aid to The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Reverend Jesse L. Jackson

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## Overview of the Collection

<b>Repository:</b>	The HistoryMakers®1900 S. Michigan Avenue Chicago, Illinois 60616 info@thehistorymakers.com www.thehistorymakers.com
<b>Creator:</b>	Jackson, Jesse, 1941-
<b>Title:</b>	The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with Reverend Jesse L. Jackson,
<b>Dates:</b>	February 28, 2006, March 1, 2006, March 11, 2006, March 2, 2006 and March 9, 2006
<b>Bulk Dates:</b>	2006
<b>Physical Description:</b>	25 Betacame SP videocassettes (12:08:07).
<b>Abstract:</b>	Civil rights leader and minister Reverend Jesse L. Jackson (1941 - ) worked with SCLC's Operation Breadbasket before leading and merging Operation PUSH with the National Rainbow Coalition. Jackson founded both organizations that have become the Rainbow/PUSH Coalition which advocate for economic opportunity and social justice. He has also been an active political leader, running for the U.S. presidency in 1984 and 1988. Jackson was interviewed by The HistoryMakers® on February 28, 2006, March 1, 2006, March 11, 2006, March 2, 2006 and March 9, 2006, in Chicago, Illinois. This collection is comprised of the original video footage of the interview.
<b>Identification:</b>	A2006_031
<b>Language:</b>	The interview and records are in English.

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## Biographical Note by The HistoryMakers®

Prominent civil rights activist and political leader Reverend Jesse Louis Jackson, Sr. was born Jesse Louis Burns on October 8, 1941 in Greenville, South Carolina to Helen Jackson and Noah Robinson. His mother later remarried Charles Henry Jackson, who formally adopted Jackson and his brother Charles. Jackson received his high school diploma from Sterling High School in Greenville, and in 1959, he received an athletic scholarship to attend the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. After his first year, Jackson then transferred to North Carolina A&T University in Greensboro, North Carolina.

At North Carolina A&T, Jackson continued to excel in sports. He was an honor student and president of his student body. On December 31, 1962, Jackson married college classmate, Jacqueline Lavinia Brown, in Greenville. Returning to North Carolina A&T, he became involved in the Civil Rights Movement joining the Greensboro chapter of the Council on Racial Equality (CORE). In 1963, Jackson helped to organize several sit-ins, desegregating local restaurants and theaters in Greensboro. Jackson was chosen as field director of CORE's southeastern operations, and president of the North Carolina Intercollegiate Council on Human Rights. In 1964, he also served as a delegate at the Young Democrats National Convention. In the same year, Jackson graduated from North Carolina A&T with a B.S. degree in sociology. He then received a Rockefeller grant to begin his postgraduate studies at the Chicago Theological Seminary in Chicago, Illinois.

In 1965, Jackson left the seminary to join Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., and the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC) to march in Selma, Alabama. At this time, Jackson became an ordained minister, although he had not returned to the seminary. In 1966, Dr. King appointed Jackson to SCLC's Chicago economic program, Operation Breadbasket. The goal of Operation Breadbasket was to foster the economy of African American

business owners and provide employment growth for African American workers. On December 25, 1971, Operation Breadbasket was renamed Operation PUSH - People United to Serve Humanity.

Over the next decade, Jackson continued his involvement with local, national, and international politics. In 1983, Jackson negotiated the release of war prisoner, U.S. pilot Robert Goodman, in Syria. In 1984 and 1988, Jackson ran for President of the United States. As a Democratic candidate, he garnered massive support and exceeded expectations for the number of delegates received. Jackson's electoral run also helped to register two million new voters.

Jackson moved to Washington, D.C. in 1989. At that time, the Washington City Council created two positions of shadow senator to lobby for the statehood of Washington, D.C. in the U.S. Congress. Jackson won one of the Senate seats, his first elected position.

In 1991, Jackson gained international acclaim again when he negotiated for the release of hundreds of foreign nationals in Kuwait under the regime of Saddam Hussein. In that same year, his likeness was put on a United States Post Office pictorial postal cancellation. Jackson is the second living person to ever receive such an honor. President Bill Clinton then appointed Jackson in 1997 as a special envoy for democracy in Kenya, later awarding him the Presidential Medal of Freedom in March 2000. Jackson hosted the CNN television program *Both Sides With Jesse Jackson* from 1992 to 2000. He has written numerous columns and authored/co-authored several books including *Keep Hope Alive* (1989) and *It's About The Money* (1999).

Jackson and the Rainbow PUSH Coalition have organized numerous events over the years that bring attention to problems facing all Americans including economic advancement, workers rights, labor conditions, voter registration, education, and racial profiling. He has been awarded over forty honorary degrees, received the NAACP Springarn Award, and been listed as one of the top ten most respected Americans. In 2000, Jackson received an honorary Masters degree from his former school, Chicago Theological Seminary. The seminary recognized Jackson's countless years of civic service to the American community.

In 2003, Jackson created the Wall Street Project. This project aims to build economic opportunities and advancements of African Americans influencing corporate America companies to increase economic growth and opportunity with minority communities and businesses. In 2004, Jackson became a radio host for the nationally syndicated radio talk show entitled, *Keep Hope Alive*.

Jackson and his wife, Jacqueline, currently divide their residency between Chicago, Illinois and Washington, D.C. They have five children, Santita Jackson, U.S. Congressman Jesse Jackson, Jr., Jonathan Jackson, Yusef Jackson, and Jacqueline L. Jackson.

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## Scope and Content

This life oral history interview with Reverend Jesse L. Jackson was conducted by Julieanna L. Richardson on February 28, 2006, March 1, 2006, March 11, 2006, March 2, 2006 and March 9, 2006, in Chicago, Illinois, and was recorded on 25 Betacame SP videocassettes. Civil rights leader and minister Reverend Jesse L. Jackson (1941 - ) worked with SCLC's Operation Breadbasket before leading and merging Operation PUSH with the National Rainbow Coalition. Jackson founded both organizations that have become the Rainbow/PUSH Coalition which advocate for economic opportunity and social justice. He has also been an active political leader, running for the U.S. presidency in 1984 and 1988.

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## Restrictions

### Restrictions on Access

Restrictions may be applied on a case-by-case basis at the discretion of The HistoryMakers®.

## Restrictions on Use

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## Related Material

Information about the administrative functions involved in scheduling, researching, and producing the interview, as well as correspondence with the interview subject is stored electronically both on The HistoryMakers® server and in two databases maintained by The HistoryMakers®, though this information is not included in this finding aid.

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## Controlled Access Terms

This interview collection is indexed under the following controlled access subject terms.

### Persons:

Jackson, Jesse, 1941-

Richardson, Julieanna L. (Interviewer)

Stearns, Scott (Videographer)

### Subjects:

African Americans--Interviews

Jackson, Jesse, 1941---Interviews

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## Organizations:

HistoryMakers® (Video oral history collection)

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The HistoryMakers® African American Video Oral History Collection

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Rainbow/PUSH Coalition

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## Occupations:

Civil Rights Leader

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## HistoryMakers® Category:

CivicMakers

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## Administrative Information

### Custodial History

Interview footage was recorded by The HistoryMakers®. All rights to the interview have been transferred to The HistoryMakers® by the interview subject through a signed interview release form. Signed interview release forms have been deposited with Jenner & Block, LLP, Chicago.

### Preferred Citation

The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with Reverend Jesse L. Jackson, February 28, 2006, March 1, 2006, March 11, 2006, March 2, 2006 and March 9, 2006. The HistoryMakers® African American Video Oral History Collection, 1900 S. Michigan Avenue, Chicago, Illinois.

### Processing Information

This interview collection was processed and encoded on 5/30/2023 by The HistoryMakers® staff. The finding aid was created adhering to the following standards: DACS, AACR2, and the Oral History Cataloging Manual (Matters 1995).

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## Other Finding Aid

A Microsoft Access contact database and a FileMaker Pro tracking database, both maintained by The HistoryMakers®, keep track of the administrative functions involved in scheduling, researching, and producing the interview.

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## Detailed Description of the Collection

### Series I: Original Interview Footage

Video Oral History Interview with Reverend Jesse L. Jackson, Section A2006\_031\_001\_001, TRT: 0:30:00 ?

Reverend Jesse L. Jackson was born on October 8, 1941 in Greenville, South Carolina to teenager Helen Burns Jackson and her married neighbor, Noah Robinson. His father's family can be traced to Native American, African and Irish roots, while his mother's family had numerous white ancestors. Jackson's paternal grandfather founded a church in Greenville with his twin brother, and conducted extensive missionary work in South Africa. His father was well-reputed in Greenville as a cotton sampler by trade, and also as a boxer. Jackson's mother was raised by his maternal grandmother, Matilda Burns, and became a talented singer and dancer. Before she became pregnant, she received a scholarship to college and an invitation to join Peg Leg Bates' dance troupe. Later, she married baseball player Charles Henry Jackson, who adopted Jackson. Jackson recalls his close relationship with his grandmother, and her sacrifices for her family. He also shares the origins of his political slogans.

Video Oral History Interview with Reverend Jesse L. Jackson, Section A2006\_031\_001\_002, TRT: 0:30:50 ?

Reverend Jesse L. Jackson was raised in Greenville, South Carolina during the Jim Crow era. He lived near Furman University, and later moved to the

predominantly black section of town known as Hillcrest Village. Jackson became conscious of segregation at eight years old, when he was humiliated for sitting in the front of a city bus. When his adoptive father, Charles Henry Jackson, returned from World War II, he experienced racial discrimination both in society and at the workplace. However, his stepfather always defended his dignity. Jackson was once threatened with a gun by a white store owner; and, fearing a confrontation, hid the incident from his stepfather. Unable to enroll at the local white universities, Jackson attended the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign on a football scholarship. When he returned to Greenville for Christmas, he was refused entrance to the public library. In response, Jackson organized his first demonstration of civil disobedience with the NAACP Youth Council.

Video Oral History Interview with Reverend Jesse L. Jackson, Section A2006\_031\_001\_003, TRT: 0:31:10 ?

Reverend Jesse L. Jackson's family lived near Furman University in Greenville, South Carolina. Due to segregation, he attended the Sullivan Street School, instead of the all-white school near his home. When his family moved to the predominantly black Hillcrest Village, he transferred to the Nicholson School, where he had a rigorous sixth grade teacher, Sara Valena Shelton. She ran on his ticket in the 1984 elections, and became the first African American woman in the South Carolina House of Representatives. Jackson attended Sterling High School; and, during the summers, traveled across the South to play sports against other black high schools in South Carolina, Georgia, and Tennessee. He recalls waiting to watch Jackie Robinson play baseball, until rain canceled the game; seeing black musicians like Sam Cooke, the Dixie Hummingbirds and the Swans Silvertones perform at Greenville's Textile Hall; and the limitations that African Americans faced under segregation.

Video Oral History Interview with Reverend Jesse L. Jackson, Section A2006\_031\_001\_004, TRT: 0:31:10 ?

Reverend Jesse L. Jackson grew up in Greenville, South Carolina, where he attended the Sullivan Street School, Nicholtown School and Sterling High School. He had a close cohort of friends who were academically and athletically successful. Inspired by the baseball career of his adoptive father, Charles Henry Jackson, Jackson began playing baseball and football in the ninth grade, and decided to pursue football as a means to attend college. He was encouraged by his high school football coach, J.D. Mathis. Although he was born out of wedlock, Jackson had a close relationship with his biological father, Noah Robinson, Sr., as well as his adoptive father, and his fathers were also friends themselves. Jackson's mother legally changed his surname from Burns to Jackson when he was twelve years old, so that he shared the family name. Jackson also recalls his math lessons with his second grade teacher, Mrs. Pitts; the sight of chain gangs on Monday mornings; and the musical scene in Greenville.

Video Oral History Interview with Reverend Jesse L. Jackson, Section A2006\_031\_001\_005, TRT: 0:26:02 ?

Reverend Jesse L. Jackson played football at Sterling High School in Greenville, South Carolina, where he also developed his confidence and oratorical skills. Jackson was then recruited to the football team at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, where he played with Mannie Jackson, Robert Mitchell and Govoner Vaughn, and experienced discrimination on the team and on campus. On his train ride home for Christmas, he witnessed the camaraderie of students from the historically black colleges along the way, prompting his transfer to the

Agricultural and Technical College of North Carolina in Greensboro, where he majored in sociology. He attended during the presidency of Samuel DeWitt Proctor, and witnessed significant representation of black faculty, football players, students and administrators for the first time. Recognized as a star athlete, Jackson also became president of the student body. Jackson met his future wife, Jacqueline Brown, during his second year in college.

Video Oral History Interview with Reverend Jesse L. Jackson, Section A2006\_031\_002\_006, TRT: 0:29:10 ?

Reverend Jesse L. Jackson attended the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign on a football scholarship, but was discontent with the social culture of the university, where African Americans were marginalized. The next year, he received a football scholarship to transfer to the Agricultural and Technical College of North Carolina in Greensboro, where he was coached by Bert C. Piggott. Jackson met Jacqueline Brown at the college, and they married when she became pregnant with their first child, Santita Jackson. Upon graduation, Jackson was unsure whether to attend law school or seminary school. He was influenced by prominent civil rights lawyers Thurgood Marshall and Constance Baker Motley, as well as theologians Benjamin Mays, Howard Thurman and Samuel DeWitt Proctor, the president of the Agricultural and Technical College of North Carolina. After meeting with Dean Robert S. Moore from the Chicago Theological Seminary, Jackson chose to attend seminary in preparation to join the Civil Rights Movement.

Video Oral History Interview with Reverend Jesse L. Jackson, Section A2006\_031\_002\_007, TRT: 0:29:22 ?

Reverend Jesse L. Jackson attended the Agricultural and Technical College of North Carolina in Greensboro on a football scholarship, but also focused on his academic performance. Although initially hesitant to become involved in civil rights activities in Greensboro, he eventually joined the Congress of Racial Equality (CORE), led by James Farmer. Jackson soon emerged as a leader of the student movement at the Agricultural and Technical College of North Carolina. On one occasion, the movement was threatened by legislators with the loss of the school's accreditation. Upon graduating, Jackson wanted to contribute further to the Civil Rights Movement, and enrolled at the Chicago Theological Seminary under the guidance of his mentor, Samuel Dewitt Proctor. Jackson first met Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. while Dr. King was on his way to receive the Nobel Peace Prize in 1964. Jackson also reflects upon Emmett Till's murder, Rosa Parks' activism and the different roles of the CORE, NAACP and SCLC.

Video Oral History Interview with Reverend Jesse L. Jackson, Section A2006\_031\_002\_008, TRT: 0:30:50 ?

Reverend Jesse L. Jackson enrolled at the Chicago Theological Seminary in 1964. There, he witnessed the integration of black and white students and clergy for the first time. Amidst backlash from Mayor Richard J. Daley, Jackson helped motivate the clergy's interest in social justice in preparation for Reverend Martin Luther King, Jr.'s first visit to Chicago. Jackson left seminary six months before earning his degree, when Dr. King asked him to join him on the road in the Civil Rights Movement. He received his degree years later, after passing an oral examination. Jackson pledged Omega Psi Phi Fraternity while at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign; and, after transferring to the Agricultural and Technical College of North Carolina, attended the March on Washington with his fraternity brother, Calvin Morris, of Lincoln University. Jackson remembers Dr. King's I Have A Dream speech, and his family's relationship with Dr. King,

who was the godfather of Jackson's son, Jonathan Jackson.

Video Oral History Interview with Reverend Jesse L. Jackson, Section A2006\_031\_002\_009, TRT: 0:30:20 ?

Reverend Jesse L. Jackson attended the Selma to Montgomery marches, which were organized by Reverend Martin Luther King, Jr. in 1965. While there, he and Reverend Dr. C.T. Vivian discovered the identity of the murderers of James Reeb, a white minister who had attended the march. Later, Dr. King decided to take his nonviolent movement to the urban North, and sought Jackson's help in Chicago. Together, they introduced Operation Breadbasket to Chicago's black clergy as an economic movement to enable African American access to jobs and markets. As the movement gained traction, the SCLC attracted support from wealthy black businessmen like George Johnson, and John H. Johnson of Johnson Publishing Company. Jackson was named the national director of Operation Breadbasket, which spread to twenty-two cities within a year. Jackson also recalls Leon Sullivan's idea for the movement; its naming by Reverend Dr. Wyatt Tee Walker; and Jackson's first job in Chicago, selling magazines for Johnson Publishing Company.

Video Oral History Interview with Reverend Jesse L. Jackson, Section A2006\_031\_002\_010, TRT: 0:28:30 ?

Reverend Jesse L. Jackson was appointed as the national director of Operation Breadbasket by Reverend Martin Luther King, Jr. He expanded the economic movement in Chicago, Illinois with the help of organizations such as the Chicago Coordinating Council Community, and black leaders like William Cousins, Jr., Anna Langford, Bishop Arthur Brazier and Edwin C. "Bill" Berry. By 1966, a year after its implementation, Operation Breadbasket had spread to over twenty cities across the country, greatly benefiting black businesses, including that of George Johnson of Johnson Products Company. Jackson also transitioned his religious meetings, which he held while a student at the Chicago Theological Seminary, to economic forums broadcast on WVON Radio. In 1969, Jackson established the Black Business Exposition trade fair to promote African Americans in business and politics. Jackson also reflects upon his relationships with Chicago's clergy and the leaders of the Black Panther Party, who sought his help on occasion.

Video Oral History Interview with Reverend Jesse L. Jackson, Section A2006\_031\_002\_011, TRT: 0:28:20 ?

Reverend Jesse L. Jackson served as the national director of Operation Breadbasket, the economic arm of the civil rights struggle launched by Reverend Martin Luther King, Jr. During this time, Jackson developed strong ties with senior civil rights leaders, including Dr. King, Ralph Abernathy, James Farmer, Floyd McKissick and Roy Wilkins. Operation Breadbasket provided a political voice to Chicago's black clergy and business owners, and its weekly forums highlighted issues of social justice alongside theology. In Chicago, Jackson recruited Reverend Clay Evans to help lead the civil rights struggle, and Evans' commitment to the SCLC remained unwavering even when he lost funding for the construction of his church. Ordained as a minister himself in 1968, Jackson decided against pastoring a traditional church, so as to devote himself to activism. He reflects upon the religious basis of the movement, his ties to the Chicago clergy and Operation Breadbasket's spread to cities beyond Chicago in the late 1960s.

Video Oral History Interview with Reverend Jesse L. Jackson, Section A2006\_031\_002\_012, TRT: 0:30:30 ?

Reverend Jesse L. Jackson attended the final meeting convened by Reverend Dr.

Martin Luther King, Jr. in Atlanta, Georgia, prior to his assassination in 1968. At this meeting, Dr. King talked about his trepidations about the organization of the Poor People's Campaign, and the hesitance of northern blacks and progressive whites to support the struggle for economic equality. Jackson questioned the political logistics of the Poor People's Campaign, leading to conflict between SCLC members at the meeting. Following this conversation, Dr. King, Jackson and other SCLC affiliates went to Memphis, Tennessee, where they stayed at the Lorraine Motel. On the night of Dr. King's assassination, the group was preparing to attend a dinner at Reverend Samuel Billy Kyles' home, when a gunman targeted King while he was talking to Jackson on the patio of his hotel room. Jackson describes the details of the night and the events of the day after, when he returned to his family in Chicago, Illinois.

Video Oral History Interview with Reverend Jesse L. Jackson, Section A2006\_031\_003\_013, TRT: 0:31:12 ?

Reverend Jesse L. Jackson developed close ties to his colleagues at the SCLC, including Julian Bond, John Lewis, Reverend Dr. C.T. Vivian and Reverend James Bevel. Following Reverend Martin Luther King, Jr.'s assassination in 1968, the SCLC searched for focus and direction as it transitioned to new leadership under Ralph Abernathy. Jackson had organized trade fairs in Chicago since the mid-1960s; and, in 1968, secured funds from the Ford Foundation to establish the Black Business Exposition, a major forum designed to promote black business and political power. He organized the expo for four years, until 1971. That year, Jackson resigned from the SCLC after a meeting in Chicago with Abernathy and SCLC board chairman Reverend Dr. Joseph Lowery. In this part of the interview, Jackson also recalls the support that Dr. King received from celebrities such as Harry Belafonte and Aretha Franklin, who undertook an eleven-city tour in 1967 to raise money for the SCLC.

Video Oral History Interview with Reverend Jesse L. Jackson, Section A2006\_031\_003\_014, TRT: 0:18:30 ?

Jesse L. Jackson continued to serve as the national director of the SCLC's Operation Breadbasket after the assassination of Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. in 1968. In the subsequent years, tensions arose within the SCLC, including Ralph Abernathy and Reverend Dr. Joseph Lowery's objections to Coretta Scott King's use of SCLC funding to establish The King Center in Atlanta, Georgia. After Abernathy appointed Jackson as the mayor of Resurrection City, a shantytown in Washington, D.C. built by demonstrators during the Poor People's Campaign, Jackson sensed the dissatisfaction of other members of the organization. The campaign folded that summer after failing to gain government backing, although Jackson had hoped to leverage private sector support. In 1971, following a board meeting with Abernathy and Lowery, Jackson resigned from the SCLC. He maintained friendships with its members, like Reverend Walter Fauntroy and Andrew Young, and rekindled his relationship with Abernathy a few years later.

Video Oral History Interview with Reverend Jesse L. Jackson, Section A2006\_031\_003\_015, TRT: 0:28:40 ?

Reverend Jesse L. Jackson fought hunger and malnutrition in Illinois as an extension of his work on the Poor People's Campaign. Along with other Chicago leaders, he approached Senator Charles H. Percy, a Republican, to convince him to vote to retain the U.S. Senate Select Committee on Nutrition and Human Needs. Following Jackson's resignation from the SCLC in 1971, he established Operation PUSH. In 1972, Jackson and Chicago alderman William



S. Singer led a delegation to the Democratic Convention, and unseated Richard J. Daley's delegation, which was not compliant with the new convention rules. Jackson also continued the work he began at Operation Breadbasket through Operation PUSH, which established covenants for black businesses and services, and supported for black political campaigns across the nation, including the mayoral campaigns of Richard Hatcher in Gary, Indiana and Carl Stokes in Cleveland, Ohio. By the 1980s, Operation PUSH was a major force in the arenas of black politics and business.

Video Oral History Interview with Reverend Jesse L. Jackson, Section A2006\_031\_003\_016, TRT: 0:23:06 ?

Reverend Jesse L. Jackson and Operation PUSH were involved in civil rights interventions in schools, jails and churches from its inception. Following Andrew Young's termination as U.N. Ambassador, Jackson and other members of the Civil Rights Movement rallied support for Young and for a two-state solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. In 1979, Jackson traveled to the Middle East to meet Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat. During Jackson's first presidential campaign in 1983, he traveled to Syria to persuade President Hafez al-Assad to release American prisoner Lieutenant Robert Goodman. He was also involved with diplomacy in Cuba, Iraq and Yugoslavia. Jackson accompanied Howard Schomer, the former president of the Chicago Theological Seminary, on a seventeen-day trip to apartheid South Africa, where he publicly expressed his support for human rights for all. Jackson also recalls being impressed by presidential candidate Jimmy Carter's commitment to hiring black staffers.

Video Oral History Interview with Reverend Jesse L. Jackson, Section A2006\_031\_003\_017, TRT: 0:30:10 ?

Reverend Jesse L. Jackson and Operation PUSH supported presidential candidate James Earl "Jimmy" Carter, Jr.'s campaign through voter registration drives. Jackson served as an informal civil rights advisor to the Carter administration, and supported his re-election efforts. Jackson's PUSH for Excellence program was selected by Vice President Hubert Humphrey to receive funding for its expansion to schools across the United States. In Chicago, Illinois, Jackson supported Jane Byrne's mayoral campaign after the death of Mayor Richard J. Daley. When the black community became discontent with Byrne, who became part of the former mayor's corrupt network, Jackson led a boycott of her annual ChicagoFest. He also rallied funds and voters to convince Harold Washington to run for mayor in 1983. In this part of the interview, Jackson reflects upon affirmative action; the shifts in political party lines; and Republicanism prior to President Ronald Reagan's administration.

Video Oral History Interview with Reverend Jesse L. Jackson, Section A2006\_031\_004\_018, TRT: 0:27:30 ?

Reverend Jesse L. Jackson attended the 1972 National Black Political Convention, a forum of newly elected black leaders in Gary, Indiana with over ten thousand attendees. Jackson's Operation PUSH was involved in political organizing throughout the 1970s, and assisted with voter registration and other campaign activities for black politicians such as Richard Hatcher, Carl Stokes and Kenneth A. Gibson. In 1983, following Harold Washington's mayoral victory in Chicago, Illinois, Jackson launched his first presidential campaign. Aided by the network he had built over eighteen years, and staffers like Frank Watkins, Jackson's campaign registered two million new voters, which allowed the Democratic Party to regain a majority in the U.S. Senate in 1986. He recalls the changes in local rules that forbade the use of foundation funds for political campaigns; changes in the tax base of urban cities after the election of black

mayors; and the context in which he coined his slogan, Keep Hope Alive.

Video Oral History Interview with Reverend Jesse L. Jackson, Section A2006\_031\_004\_019, TRT: 0:29:10 ?

Reverend Jesse L. Jackson's Operation PUSH was reputed for its role in political campaigns and voter registration drives for several years. Following his boycott of Chicago mayor Jane Byrne's ChicagoFest, and his organization of Harold Washington's successful win as Mayor of Chicago in 1983, Jackson's staff, including Frank Watkins, began to suggest that he run for president in the 1984 general elections. Jackson had been disappointed in his progressive allies, Edward M. Kennedy and Walter Mondale, for their endorsement of Richard M. Daley over Harold Washington in 1983. During Jackson's presidential campaign, he was supported by religious leaders like Reverend Clay Evans, H.H. Brookins and E.V. Hill; and politicians like Maxine Waters, Richard Hatcher, David N. Dinkins and Percy Sutton. Jackson recalls developing relationships with those who needed support the most, such as coalminers in Virginia arrested in their struggle for representation; and negotiating Lieutenant Robert Goodman's release from Syria.

Video Oral History Interview with Reverend Jesse L. Jackson, Section A2006\_031\_004\_020, TRT: 0:31:12 ?

Reverend Jesse L. Jackson campaigned for president in 1984. His early campaign events in Washington, D.C. were attacked and picketed due to his support for the cause of a Palestinian state; a view that was also shared by his wife, Jacqueline Brown Jackson, following her humanitarian trip to the Middle East. Jackson recalls being targeted by the press for an anti-Semitic statement during his campaign; and race relations in the 1970s. When Jackson received death threats, police officers belonging to the Nation of Islam and the National Organization of Black Law Enforcement provided security to his campaign. Jackson and his family were prepared for such attacks by their work during the Civil Rights Movement with Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Jackson also talks about the Nation of Islam and its activism. His 1984 presidential campaign registered two million new voters through voter registration drives, setting up the Democratic Party to win a majority in the U.S. Senate in 1986.

Video Oral History Interview with Reverend Jesse L. Jackson, Section A2006\_031\_004\_021, TRT: 0:30:00 ?

Reverend Jesse L. Jackson's first presidential campaign was threatened at its outset by groups protesting his meeting with Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat in 1979. Jackson's campaign focused on increasing voter registration, particularly of African Americans in the southern United States. He ran a small campaign and raised funds on a circuit of speaking engagements at schools and churches throughout the South. While meeting with fellow ministers in Memphis, Tennessee, Jackson heard about the capture of Lieutenant Robert Goodman in Syria. Along with an interfaith team of theologians, he went to Syria to negotiate with President Hafez al-Assad, whom he had met previously. Although Jackson returned home successful in his diplomatic mission, the press underestimated his foreign policy credentials. Undeterred, Jackson continued on the campaign trail in 1984 and 1988. He registered millions of black voters and broke the racial barrier to political ambition in the United States.

Video Oral History Interview with Reverend Jesse L. Jackson, Section A2006\_031\_005\_022, TRT: 0:30:05 ?

Reverend Jesse L. Jackson organized a boycott of ChicagoFest in 1983, an annual event held by Mayor Jane Byrne. During this time, he also organized funds and voters on behalf of Harold Washington's campaign for mayor of

Chicago, Illinois. The Democratic Party failed to endorse Washington's run, and Jackson decided to break the racial barrier in presidential politics. When Jackson announced his campaign for the presidency in 1984, the announcement rally was picketed by Jewish militant groups in protest of his two-state approach to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Although nervous before his first debate in New Hampshire against Senator John Glenn, Senator Ernest Hollings and Vice President Walter Mondale, Jackson stood by his platform, and earned a seat at the table. His experience negotiating with the governments of Syria, Iraq, Cuba and Yugoslavia prepared him for questions about foreign policy. He also recalls adapting to the political language of the U.S. Secret Service and the press.

Video Oral History Interview with Reverend Jesse L. Jackson, Section A2006\_031\_005\_023, TRT: 0:31:10 ?

Reverend Jesse L. Jackson and a team of ministers traveled to Syria in 1983, and successfully negotiated with President Hafez al-Assad for the release of prisoner Lieutenant Robert Goodman. Following his return to the United States, President Ronald Reagan's administration failed to convey the appropriate credit to Jackson's team. That year, Jackson was the first African American to launch a presidential campaign, and he recalls how the U.S. Secret Service and the press adjusted to the difference in culture. Jackson received little support from the Democratic Party, including black Democrats, who maintained allegiances to Vice President Walter Mondale in the 1984 presidential elections. His campaign funds were boosted by donations from mailings and from the networks of supporters such as politician Percy Sutton, Bishop H.H. Brookins, businessman Reginald F. Lewis and actor Bill Cosby. Jackson also reflects upon his first speech at the Democratic National Convention in 1984, and the legacy of his campaigns.

Video Oral History Interview with Reverend Jesse L. Jackson, Section A2006\_031\_005\_024, TRT: 0:31:10 ?

Reverend Jesse L. Jackson garnered the votes of three hundred delegates in the Democratic presidential primary elections in 1983, and thirteen hundred delegates in the 1988 primaries. During his campaigns, he developed the ideology of America as a multicultural rainbow. Although challenged by racial biases in rural America, Jackson gained the support of labor unions, coalminers and the farming community; and his speech at the 1984 Democratic National Convention earned him credibility in the Democratic Party. Jackson's campaign affiliates, like Minyon Moore, Ron Brown and Alexis Herman, went on to become leaders in the Democratic Party, and his campaign staff worked for the Democratic National Convention under chairman Vernon E. Jordan, Jr. Jackson's presidential campaigns laid the foundation for the Democratic majority the U.S. Senate in 1986, and for President Bill Clinton's victory in 1992. Jackson also reflects upon the cultural legacy of his presidential candidacy, which broke political barriers.

Video Oral History Interview with Reverend Jesse L. Jackson, Section A2006\_031\_005\_025, TRT: 0:29:58 ?

Reverend Jesse L. Jackson built on his 1984 Democratic presidential primary campaign to run again in 1988. In the interim, he built relationships in schools and churches across the country. During the Democratic presidential primaries in 1988, Jackson won the key state of Michigan in a landslide victory, and continued on to Wisconsin, Minnesota and New York, where he contested Michael Dukakis and Al Gore. His performance in the New York primaries was challenged by the commentary of New York City mayor Ed Koch, who rallied Jewish voters against Jackson; and Al Gore's withdrawal from the race. While

Jackson won New York City in a landslide, he lost the overall state to Dukakis. In this closing section of his interview, Jackson reflects upon the strategy of his campaign staffers, Frank Watkins and Joel Ferguson; his political message; the legacy of his presidential campaigns; and the changes to the Republican Party during President Ronald Reagan's administration.

Video Oral History Interview with Reverend Jesse L. Jackson, Section  
A2006\_031\_REV\_JESSE\_JACKSON\_SR\_06\_MED\_002, TRT: 1:30:00

This tape contains footage of Rev. Jesse Jackson, Sr. speaking at a luncheon in 1996 held by the Citizenship Education Fund. Rev. Jackson spoke on the importance of education to children. He also presented a special award to Deval Patrick. This footage was shot for C-SPAN.

This tape has been moved to Jesse Jackson, Sr.'s archival box and was placed in the media folder.

Video Oral History Interview with Reverend Jesse L. Jackson, Section  
A2006\_031\_REV\_JESSE\_JACKSON\_SR\_06\_MED\_003, TRT: 0:31:00 ?

This tape contains footage of Rev. Jesse L. Jackson, Sr. speaking at a Rainbow/PUSH conference in 1998. Rev. Jackson spoke about the importance of investment in the underdeveloped neighborhoods of Chicago. This footage was shot for C-SPAN.

This is tape one of three.

Video Oral History Interview with Reverend Jesse L. Jackson, Section  
A2006\_031\_REV\_JESSE\_JACKSON\_SR\_06\_MED\_004, TRT: 0:07:40 ?

This tape contains post presentation footage from a Rainbow/PUSH conference in 1998. Also included is footage of Rev. Jesse Jackson, Sr. being interviewed by local media. This footage was shot for C-SPAN.

This is tape two of three.

Video Oral History Interview with Reverend Jesse L. Jackson, Section  
A2006\_031\_REV\_JESSE\_JACKSON\_SR\_06\_MED\_005, TRT: 0:31:00 ?

This tape contains footage of Rev. Jesse L. Jackson, Sr. speaking at a Rainbow/PUSH conference in 1998. Note: this tape has bad audio. This footage was shot for C-SPAN.

This is tape three of three.

Video Oral History Interview with Reverend Jesse L. Jackson, Section  
A2006\_031\_REV\_JESSE\_JACKSON\_SR\_06\_MED\_006, TRT: 0:01:00

This tape contains footage of Rev. Jesse L. Jackson, Sr. delivering a PSA for the Rainbow/PUSH Coalition. The message urges people to attend the 1998 Rainbow PUSH conference in Chicago. The theme of the PSA is "Leave No One Behind."

Video Oral History Interview with Reverend Jesse L. Jackson, Section  
A2006\_031\_REV\_JESSE\_JACKSON\_SR\_06\_MED\_007, TRT: 0:24:00

This tape is an edited copy of Rev. Jesse L. Jackson, Sr. speaking at the Rainbow/PUSH national convention in 1998. The footage was shot for C-SPAN. Rev. Jackson spoke on the topic of "expanding the market."