

Edward L Neely III interviewed by Leticia Zang Oyana
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Bouck, Avenue

SUMMARY KEYWORDS

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Leticia Zang (00:13): Hello, my name is Leticia Zang, I'm interviewing today, Edward Neely in my house on the date on April 12, 2021. Mr. Edward?

Edward Neely (00:14): Yes.

LZ (00:19): Do you give me the permission to record and distribute this oral interview?

EN (00:20): Yes.

LZ (00:25): The first question I'm gonna to start to ask you today is about COVID-19. But you don't have to answer all of the questions if you don't feel comfortable.

EN (00:39): No Problem.

LZ (00:39): Okay.

LZ (00:44): How are you coping with the pandemic?

EN (00:45): The pandemic has affected me, and I had COVID-19, I was in a hospital in a rehabilitation place for a total of five months. I personally almost died three times. And after the last rehabilitation place to rehab me, I had to learn how to walk again, how to use my hands, the COVID-19 affected me with my nerves, with my hands, my legs, my bladder. I had to use a catheter for almost four and a half months. So, it took like the month of August of last year to take the catheter out and get my bladder to work right. Again.

LZ (01:38): Okay.

LZ (1:39): The next question is gonna be, do you have a self-routine?

EN (1:44): If I have a what?

LZ (1:45): The Self Routine.

LZ (1:46): The self-care routine?

LZ (1:48): Do have self a care routine?

EN (1:49): A self-care routine.

LZ (1:50): Yes.

EN (01:51): Yes. I had it for a little while I had it. I was taking care of myself. And I also had my son, who was my caretaker.

LZ (01:58): What was your initial response to the COVID? And how has it changed over the time?

EN (02:05): Oh, my initial problem with the COVID was getting sick. Being in the hospital for so many months, and so many months in a rehabilitation center. And I'm still being affected by it one year later, because I got sick with the COVID April 2nd of 2020. And here it is April 12, And it's still affecting me. I got to go to the pain management person. Doctor. I got to also go on the 15 I got to see my urologist reference to having a catheter in my bladder. On the 19th, I see my pulmonologist at the VA hospital for my lungs and having a COVID-19.

LZ (02:56): Have you or someone close to you got COVID?

EN (03:01): Yes. I had about three people who had to COVID. My aunt, two of my aunt's and my uncle, they all died.

LZ (03:10): What was that like?

EN (03:12): It was rough because my one of my aunts is my mother's baby sister. And she raised me ever since I was like two years old. She raised me till I was like 13 and then I went back to live with my mother.

LZ (03:28): Did you lose anyone close to you?

EN (03:31): Yes. My aunt, my uncle, and two of my aunts.

LZ (03:37): Could you tell me a little bit about them?

EN (03:41): Well, my aunt, my mother's baby sister. She was a real nice person. She took care of me from the time I was a baby. Like I said until I was 13. Then my mother needed somebody to take care of me. I was the only child, and my mother was working taking care of herself and me. And my other aunt is mother's brother's wife. Her name is Aunt Mary. She passed away from COVID. Her husband, my uncle Leroy, he had it, he was able to make it. And then one of my mother's younger brothers. He had got COVID, and he passed away from that.

LZ (04:27): How are you copy financially?

EN (04:30): Pretty good. Because I was working before the COVID. I was doing digital dental technician work in the lab. So, I have my unemployment now and my Social Security from the

COVID. So, I get paid every week. And then once a month I get paid with my Social Security. so far its sustained me. It allows me to do things and have money. So, I'm okay.

LZ (04:57): Okay. Mr. Neely, the next question is gonna be, what was it like to be home so often?

EN (05:06): No, it's for so long. Oh, it was rough, because I didn't see anybody. And I see anyone, every now and then I would see my, my son that lives in the city. But then he started coming around more, and my son out in Long Island that I stayed with, for six weeks, when I came out of the rehabilitation state center, I stayed with him for about six, seven weeks. So, I got a chance to see my son out in Long Island. And other than that, basically right now I'm home. I have a roommate, he works like 12 hours a day. So, I'm there like 12 hours a day by myself. I miss being around people, I'm very social, like to talk about different things and talk about things to teach people younger than me. So, it was kind of rough, being home by myself.

LZ (06:00): How did it impact you socially, mentally, and emotionally?

EN (06:05): It impact socially... that I wasn't able to be around anyone on a regular basis, like I that used to be? Oh, mostly affected me and made me feel a little bit depressed. Not happy. You know, not able to see my family and people you know, I care about, the people I love. So, it was it was kind of rough. It was king of rough, but we've all got to cooperate with it, we can't all be social gathering around each other right now. So, to help the COVID and help ourselves, we have to follow the rules, you know, wear your mask, social distance, you know, washing your hands, keeping your area, okay, you know, talk to a friend, talking to family or friends like on the telephone. I said, because even now, with them giving you the vaccination, you still got to be very cautious about it because it has like three to four different variants. So that can affect you at any time. And last two various is very contagious and easy to spread. So basically, I stay home. Come outside, I have my mask on, my shield. Plus, I'm using oxygen because my lungs are low. We can damage from the COVID. And I deal with sarcoidosis, also, with another Lyme disease. And the beginning stages of COPD, and emphysema. Everything is basically one of these in my lungs.

LZ (07:39): The next question is gonna be like, but I like I said you don't have to answer all of the questions.

EN (07:46): Don't worry about it.

LZ (7:47): If you don't feel comfortable.

LZ (07:50): Are people in your household working?

EN (07:53): Yes, one person. That's it, there's two of us living together my roommate and myself. He works.

LZ (08:02): What have you learned about yourself and your family since the beginning of this crisis?

EN (08:09): Okay. Well, I learned I learned how to be my own best friend, to be by myself. You know, sometimes it's funny, sometimes is boring. There is a lot of times I'll be trying to focus like your foggy brain. Like you try to think about things and because you're not talking to people like, you want to talk to yourself, you know? Well, thinking out loud as they would say, you know, as I learned out about myself, I could be my own best friend.

EN (08:38): Right now.

LZ (08:39): What has been the hardest part of this pandemic for you?

EN (08:44): Not being around people, not being able to socialize was one of my biggest problems.

LZ (08:50): Has there been anything positive to come out of this pandemic for you?

EN (08:56): Oh, to think positive and keep your faith and decide what you know, your next moves are gonna be as far as you know, when a COVID gets to the point that is safe. You know, it's never gonna really go away ever, you know, because in this pandemic you got people who are take the vaccination, and it is a pandemic you got people who are not going to take it. So them not taking it, it's gonna affect all of us because we won't be able to get rid of the COVID. So, we'll always be in a state of social distancing because of the COVID. Yeah. So, we have to worry about that.

LZ (09:36): How has the COVID-19 change how you think about the relation between our health as an individual and our health as a society?

EN (09:48): Well, in my health, it myself I'm more conscientious about it. I've always been conscientious about my health. I don't play with it. You know if I have anything wrong with me, I go get it taken care of I was blessed to have a doctor for 19 years that knows me, knows my family. So that's a big difference. As far as the social and the society, it's gonna affect all of us. A lot of people don't see it that way, but it's gonna affect all of us because we have to have a very high percentage of people following the rules. Mass washing your hands distancing, and taking the COVID vaccination, you need to take that, because like I went through a situation with a pandemic, in the 50s, when little kids were getting polio, when it was getting polio. Dr. Jonas Salk was the one who came up with the vaccination for polio. A lot of people was hesitant to taking it. And they went through a period where people weren't taking it, and little kids were coming up with polio. And as polio, they gotta live with that for the rest of their life. So, you know, just imagine if people don't take the vaccinations that they need to eradicate things and make things don't exist anymore. That's what they did with polio for all of us around the world. You know, so just imagine if the first people never took the polio shot? What would the world do then? They won't take it either.

LZ (11:11): They will not take it.

EN (11:12): If they didn't take it, what would have happened? You see people that that they had polio, right? You've seen people who have polio, just imagine living like that for the rest of

your life, in a wheelchair, crutches, canes and all of that. Just because you didn't take the shot, Or you didn't take the drops in your mouth. Because you've had you had a polio vaccine where they dropped their drops in your mouth, you had that? Yeah, that was polio too. The first one was the injection you had when you were a baby.

LZ (11:40): Yes.

EN (11:41): So, this Imagine if you didn't take those shots, you took the chance to have polio.

LZ (11:45): Yes.

EN (11:46): And live with that the rest of live, believe me, you will be a real big handicap. You can't do for yourself, but you could be severe when you're laying in the bed.

LZ (11:56): How do you think the government handled the covid crisis?

EN (12:01): Well, myself personally, I know for a fact, when I got sick in 2020, right? In 2019, October of 2019, Trump and everybody in this country knew about the COVID-19 and did nothing about it. He didn't let us know about it. And he knew about it. He could have told people right then to shut it down. You know how many hundreds; you imagine how many hundreds of thousands of people he could have saved?

LZ (12: 35): No. I can't imagine.

EN (12: 37): It is five hundred and seventy-five thousand people who died from COVID in this country alone, the highest in the whole world.

LZ (12: 47): I saw this on the TV.

EN (12: 47): We got more deaths in the United States than any country anywhere on the planet. That's ridiculous. And we are the most richest, industrial country in the world. We have the money; we have the means and the ways to do these things. If this man would have been honest, from the beginning, you could have been six, seven months ahead of the game, because he just thought talking about COVID until March. And look how he was dealing with, Hong Kong, flu, all this stuff and all this derogatory negative types of stuff. The man is crazy. He messed up things here in this country. That's why this country is in a state that it is in. Look! you got Korea, we got Taiwan, you got Singapore, you know what I'm saying? These people only had two or 300 people that got COVID. You understand? Because they shut it down. Everybody, all the health department people were in the big suits, white suits, with the oxygen masks and everything right, going around, restrained people, put them in hotels, putting them in their house, they made sure that they stayed inside and to travel around and social distance. So, when they did that, and elderly people were wearing masks, and people in this country here was laughing like it was a joke. They don't hardly have any COVID. If you find from 100 to 1000 people with COVID in Korea and different places like that. You're lucky. You're lucky. You know, so it wasn't far as me personally, it was not handled right in this country. It was not handled right in this country! That's my opinion.

LZ (14:24): How would you grade the job the government did in rolling out the vaccine?

EN (14:31): Well, it did the best they can because they had to basically wait until Biden came in. You know, the first people to get the vaccine was, I think it was in December. She took the second shot, Black woman here in New York. Took a second shot in January. But this vaccination they had; they could have had it out three to six months earlier. You understand what I'm saying?

LZ (14:57): Yeah. I understand.

EN (14: 58) Listen this year- and you might know, you might not know, you might have heard. Every 25 to 60 days, they can make a new vaccine for different diseases. The vaccine that they made now for COVID, you know what they did to the genes, they cut it, they spliced it, they took a section out of the DNA, then you put another disease in there, right? And that that disease that they put into that DNA, creates another vaccine. So, things that people are getting sick from now. And they have now, now they have the sequence, the DNA sequence, the helix, for the genetics, they have the sequence and how to make vaccines, well, a lot of different routes, a lot of diseases. It's going to help a lot of different people. The same thing that they did with AIDS, when people who are in New York and around the world had got AIDS and HIV, right? They literally had to take 50 to 60 pills a day. You know, right now, they only have to take one pill daily. And that happened because the geneticists were able to design and study and make the new medication for people to take. So, you imagine taking 25 pills, and now all you got to do is take one, you go to the lab, and they check you. Your blood doesn't show any HIV, or AIDS. That's how it is. Now you see the commercials on TV.

LZ (16:27): Yeah. I see.

EN (16:28): Yeah. So, this imagines nobody took the chance of making that decision to splice the helix in the genetics and everything in the DNA. They never who came up with that medicine. And just imagine you come over to medicine, where somebody is taking 25 pills, and I only got to take one. People who had HIV said, oh, I don't want to take that because it's never been tested. Where would they be at today, they still would have HIV detection in the body. And they'll be taken 25 pills instead of taking one pill. That's the same thing with the COVID. You know, right now, people don't want to take it. But they're gambling with their life because now you just don't have a COVID 19 by itself. You don't have that, you have COVID-19 plus four different other versions of COVID-19. And the other last two that they have is more dangerous than the very first one it's more contagious. You can get it you can get that like this. Very fast.

LZ (17:31): Yeah.

LZ (17:34): Will you be getting a vaccine?

EN (17:3): I have it already. I have both. I have both vaccinations. I had my first vaccination on February 9th. I had my second vaccination March the 12th. So, I have my passport, ID for taking the vaccine.

LZ (17:55): How do you feel about the world reopening?

EN (17:59): I feel that the world could open up, but I think it has to be fair enough that the countries that are rich and could afford, get all the vaccine that you have for your country. And then all the extra vaccines, give it to the other countries that need it. Because every country can't afford those vaccines, and the ones especially who can't afford because of the corruption in their country, because the money's mismanaged and things like that. Take them to the point that when they had that like that, and we got extra vaccines give it to those countries because we don't get this done around the world. We're gonna to be dealing with this vaccine and the Coronavirus for a long time. It's not gonna to end next year. I guarantee you, mark my word of God Almighty allows me to go past that time. I guarantee we're gonna be dealing with Coronavirus in 2023. Easy, easy, this is not going anywhere because a lot of people don't want to take the vaccine. And a lot of people doing...I call it rude and disrespectful things to the public. They allow the public to do all type of things. That's not good. You can't make people take the vaccine, but people have to be more conscientious about the scientist. The scientist is doing this, but when a government gets involved in like Trump did, making jokes about China and all that type of stuff like that saying very derogatory things about the Asians and, about Africa. Shithole countries and all that type of stuff like that. That doesn't help the people in the world. That doesn't make everybody be united. We got to fight this as one big family of the human race. Forget these stupid borders they got in these different countries. You know, they got Africa right now cut up into 54 different countries, right? Who put those borders there? White People from Europe. We didn't put it there. Africans didn't put it there; it was their people, all the countries that colonized all those different countries who put those borders there. And because you put those borders there, you allowed these guys, these dictators, all its corruption goes down, and something like this that's going down. Now, they don't have time to be playing games with people's life, you get that vaccine, and you get into as many arms and people as you can. Because if you don't deal with this COVID, believe me, you're going to be dealing with 2, 3, 4 years from now Easy, easy.

LZ (20:38): What's the first thing you're going to do when you have your freedom from the pandemic?

EN (20:43): Oh, I'm going on vacation. Up and out of here like Superman. You hear me? It was like where is Neely at. I don't know. We gone!

LZ (21:08): How do you think the world will be changed when we come out of this pandemic?

EN (21:15): I'm hoping that it changed in a way that people (become) more human. And they look at humanity in a positive light. That's what I hope. You know, you got to keep your faith. But I know a lot of people are not gonna want to do that. It's too much racism here in this country. That's why at the age that I am ,69 going on 70 in September, I'm ready to leave this country go live somewhere else for a while, I had enough here. Serious. Everybody's rushing to come to the United States. I'm trying to leave. You what I'm saying? I'm trying to leave because I can always come back here with no problem. Let me go somewhere else to see what it's about.

LZ (21:55): Okay. The next question going to be about the BLM Protest about protests. Like protests, people.

EN (22:05): Yeah.

LZ (22:06): Yeah.

EN (22:07): They need to deal with protests people better and deal with them more humane. Because when they protest that's the voice of the people letting the government know, you're not taking care of what's right. You know, right now. All these republicans refuse to give the people money, right. But as soon the economy gets hurt, right, they're ready to bail out these big banks. These big Wall Street firms, we're ready to give corporations money, right. But if he wasn't taking taxes from us, you wouldn't have that money to give to corporations. When Obama was president, he saved Ford, and General Motors, he saved the auto industry in this country. If he didn't do that, you know what would happen then, all of these cars in this country would be made by Korea and Japan, not the United States. When he did that, I had no problems with because he kept the economy up. A lot of people of color work for General Motors and Ford. But it should have never got to that point. You understand what I'm saying?

LZ (23:26): Yes. I understand.

EN (23:27): It should have never got to that point. You have enough money to take care of the people as well as the government and take care of the corporations. But don't put the corporation and the government before the people because we pay the senators salary. We give them the right to have a decent life. But when you're in that position as governor, president, congressman, senator, do not forget how you got that you just didn't walk in into that job. You had to be voted in there. And who voted you in it, the people, your constituents that the state that you come from. You're working for those people, yet you treat them, right. You know, make yourself an example to this country, into this world. I used to treat the people, they're not gonna stop protesting around the world, believe me, they're not gonna stop. Every time they protest the police is gonna have less and less authority over the people. You're gonna have to give in because you can't just be tear gassing people and hitting them with big rubber bullets this big. And you know, trying to shut them down. That's a god given rights of protests. Freedom of speech, that's the law in this country. So, I don't appreciate how they deal with us. I'm praying that it gets better. These people come to light because all this racial stuff that's going on in his country. We have black men getting killed. It's not good. When George Floyd got murdered the way he did, the world and the United States protested. Why? Because the lady stood there and filmed that whole thing. And when you see that you've seen it right there on TV. (Inaudible), he killed this guy. You have four experts came up for the prosecutor and said he was murdered. 90 seconds to almost two minutes, right. That man was not breathing, it's like his whole left right side because the weight of the four officers on him was crushed. The medical examiner said it's like they cut his lung out. Because that lung was dead. was not getting any air.

LZ (26:12): Do you remember where you were and what you thought when you first saw and heard about George Floyd's murder?

EN (26:26): I was home looking at TV. How I felt? I was pissed off. I was pissed off and mad too. You could imagine how mad I was in my house, seeing that man die like that. You see, I live through a lot of assassinations in this country. Assassination, people killed our leaders. They kill Martin Luther King. They killed Medgar Evers, they killed Malcolm X. You know, they killed John F. Kennedy. They killed Robert Kennedy. In my lifetime. I've seen already five or six different assassinations in this country. In this country, they got the nerve to try to say that they civilized, they're not civilized you know how you say that? You know that? When Trump became president, look how these white people came out. They felt emboldened. They felt that they had the right to be racist. All they did when Trump came in here, it allowed them to expose these white people in this country with some of these white people in this country couldn't believe how some of the white people were acting. They couldn't believe it. You know, they couldn't believe how these people acted. These people were acting crazy, acting very rude and racist to black people in this country. From the people to the police officers, right. No one had respect us. No one. So that's how it affected me. I was very mad and upset.

LZ (28:08): Explain to me why you think these anti-racist protests erupted?

EN (28:16): It erupted because it was always there. People kept their eyes closed. They didn't want to believe these white people were racist. You understand? They didn't want to believe that they were racist. And they've always been racist. I remember back in the 50s, the 60s and 70s, the 80s. The 90s, 2000 up to 2021. They are still racist in this country. We are the only people that came to this country. And we didn't come here on our own. They brought us here. Everybody else in this country, they came here on their own. Nobody brought them here. But everybody else that was that was here. They all got reparations for money from the government for the things that they did to them. You know, the Japanese American that was here in this country and they were born in this country. They put them in detention camps. You hear me?

LZ (29:11): Yeah. I heard you.

EN (29:13): And they put them there and treated them bad. And then years later, they had to give them restitution as far as a certain amount of money for each one. They're trying to do that now with us. And they do it in such a way where they resentfully don't want to give us any type of money any restitution for bringing us here as slaves. So, these white people feel that they got the right to act the way they do because nobody in government is acknowledging us as people. No one. Just think about it, we the only group of people that has been brought to this country. We didn't ask to come here.

LZ (29:50): Of course.

EN (29:51): This country's not even designed for us to be here. We built Washington DC two times. The first time and then when they had the war, they burnt it down. And we built it back. When you go down to Washington DC, you see that place? That whole place, guess who was it designed by, a black architect. Okay, he designed Washington DC, the streets, everything, the buildings, everything. A black man did that, and they still don't want to give us a recognition for it. You know?

LZ (30:28): What are some of the reasons do you think protesting Black-American, and (Inaudible) are angry about the conditions in the United State?

EN (30:40): They should be upset about the condition in United States. They don't have any respect for us. They don't got respect for our men, our children, black young men, or women, they have no respect for us in any type of way. They never want to acknowledge that they're racist towards us. The world gets the chance to see it every day on the news. Just recently, we had a black lieutenant. An officer in the army, and this white officer pulled him over, pepper sprayed him and made him lay down on the floor in the street. You what they did to that white officer? Right away, they fired him. How are you gonna take a lieutenant, officer for the United States Army, a high-ranking officer, and you're going to put them on the ground, you're going to pepper spray him like he's a criminal, for driving his car. This man has so many complaints against him when they did that and added on video and say, boom, that was it. They fired him right on the spot. The time he took off his uniform and went back to the station for that incident. He was fired. That just happened last week.

LZ (32:00): Do you believe there are issues with the criminal justice system in the United States that have helped flame this protest?

EN (32:08): Yes, and it's not fair the way they treat us in crimes. In the justice system. The justice system in this country is not designed for us. They don't respect us. They feel that way. and they feel emboldened. In other words, they feel the right to treat us the way they treat us. They don't care about us. The social justice system in this country was purposely designed after slavery was ended. They had a Ku Klux Klan that used to run around and chase us down and abuse us after we were free. Then they will take us, and they would put us in jail. And that still affects us today. The justice system, and the penal system for this country hurts more black people and black families than any group of people that's in this country. They need to change it.

LZ (33:03): When did you become aware of those issues?

EN (33:07): Very young, very young. I was like maybe nine or ten years old. Before I was 10, I was very aware of it all through the 60s and 70s 80s and 90s. In the 2000s. You know.

LZ (33:29): Do you think the history of race, of racism in the United States impact BLM movement?

EN (33:36): Yes. It impacted it because black lives matter, and when they did that, it was made by black women. The white world couldn't accept it. Why? Because everybody in the world took that allegory. They took that and they ran with it. I don't care if he was in Germany, England, Japan, any country in the world. You know, any country in the world adapted what that they had to say about the Black Lives Matter. So, a lot of times, people that resented it like he's a supreme racist people that we have in this country. They made things worse, or tried to, I would say this, you know, disassembly, that whole thing. They tried to get it where they would try to take away the feeling of the people, take away their protests, like it was nothing. But the more they tried to do that more and more people from around the world got involved in it. And you can't tell the

world what to do. Because the world is seeing what they are seeing on TV, but all these black people being killed and these officers getting away with it.

LZ (34:53): How have the uprisings across the country shift how you think about your ethnic identity and your place in the U.S society?

ED (35:05): Personally, myself, like I said before, earlier, I'm tired of being here. I'm tired of living through this. I'm tired of seeing it on TV. Killing black people like they are nothing. You know what I'm saying?

LZ (35:17): Yeah.

EN (35:18): I can't take it anymore. I gotta go to a Black Country. I gotta go to a black country in the continent of Africa, I gotta go back to the motherland and get into it seriously.

EN (35:31): Because this is not something that you know, you should have to live through year after year after year.

LZ (35:38): Do you have any story you are willing to share about an encounter you have had with racism or police?

EN (35:50): Oh, I've had incidents with the police chasing after me. And then when I stopped and turned around, they're gonna talk about oh, do I look like somebody, or I'm dressed like somebody who did a crime. I said, look let me tell you something, I live a block away from here. And I'm going to a train station to pick up my wife because she used to work late. So, the longer you detain me here, that's a black woman is over at the train station waiting for somebody to pick her up. God forbid something happens to her. You're chasing me over here and stopping me, and I didn't break any laws. I didn't do any crimes. So eventually, they let me go because that's all. I told him that I just came out of the Air Force and got married to my childhood girlfriend and I'm going to pick her up.

EN (36:52): They decided that, oh, this is not the guy who did it. This is somebody who just came out of the Air Force with an honorable discharge and everything. So, they let me go.

EN (37:03): You know where to Concourse is at?

LZ: (37:07): I don't know conferences.

EN (37:09): Where y'all used to live at, Burnside Avenue, in the Grand Concourse.

LZ (37:12): Oh, Grand Concourse.

EN (37:14): They stopped me in the middle of Grand Concourse.

LZ (37:16): They did?

EN (37:17): They had me gunned down and everything. He could have easily killed me.

LZ (37: 22): Oh, so.

EN (37:24): So, when they did that, the traffic totally stopped. Nobody moved. They all watching what's going on. But at the time, you didn't have telephones. You know what I'm saying?

LZ (37:33): Yeah, I know.

EN (37: 34): Because these guys would have done something to me. They didn't have body cameras. Nobody would know what happened. Whatever the cops said that's what they would have went for.

LZ (37:45): Have you? sorry about this question it was a mistake.

LZ (37:51): Have you learned about an experience of someone close to you? Like whom was in the protest?

EN (37:58): Oh, I used to go to protests for the Black Panthers. You've heard of Black Panthers. Right?

LZ (38:05): Yeah. I heard about it.

EN (38:06): Okay. These people had a bad picture about the Black Panthers. Let me tell you what the Black Panthers were. It was community organization that made it possible with Maria Shriver, you know, Arnold Schwarzenegger? The body builder. The big body? You heard of him?

LZ (38:22): Yeah. I heard.

EN (38:24): And his wife used to be Maria Shriver. She's a Kennedy.

LZ (38:26): Oh.

EN (38:28): Her father. His name was Sargent. Sargent Shriver, he got with the Black Panthers, right? You know what they did? They started feeding the little kids' food in the morning. So, they won't be hungry, while they're in school. But all they say about the Black Panthers, like they were like, they were terrorists. They were bad people. They weren't bad people. They were practicing their rights. The first and second amendment rights. And they took it to the fullest. They used to walk through the street with shotguns, black fur, leather jackets. They used to protest about any injustice that was going on in this country. You know, so I learned a lot from

that because I used to go to there demonstrations. You know, so those are some of the things that I've seen. I've seen people get pulled over. I've seen people get harassed because of their color their skin. I've seen a lot of crazy stuff. That's why I'm so fed up and tired of this country.

LZ (39:35): How has the BLM shift the culture?

EN (39:39): Is has woken people up. It made me wake up, band together and support each other and support these black women and support these people from around the world that is respectfully looking at us and Black Lives Matter and see how we handle it.

LZ (40:00): How have the past few months change how you think about police and racism in the United States?

EN (40:08): It hasn't changed that much. It's still the same way it was. The police are very racist. They try to pretend that they are not, and they are. It's a situation where they have to be retrained at how they look at black men and black boys and black families, that's what they got to do. So, it's been bad. Some people said, it's getting a little bit better it might be. But the thing that gets to me is that they should never have to get to that point. So never ever, it's never been able to happen.

LZ (40:47): What have you seen your peers doing that inspires you?

EN (40:55): Some of my friends that I know, you know, they like young entrepreneurs, or they work for yourself at some type of capacity. So that type of stuff like that affects me. And on top of it, it's good. You know, makes you think positive about your but our people, and it makes you feel hopeful that things will change. And hopefully I'll be here to see it. I always used to say you know, I wanted to be a certain age, maybe hopefully I might be able to see a black president one day, I was here. You what I'm saying?

LZ (41:35): Yeah.

EN (41:36): And that was something that I thought about when I was like 10, 12 ,13, 14 years old in the 60s.

LZ (41:44): How do you explain folks who respond to BLM with "All Life matters"?

EN (42:08): Well, the people that get into it, they trying to change things to make people think a certain way to wake them up, as they would say. And by doing that, the people have to make it that everybody gets into listening to each other. Because when you sit down and listen to each other, you learn something. So that aspect of it is what I look at.

LZ (42:37): Like I said, if you feel tired, you don't have to answer all these questions. Okay, is there anything else about the anti-racist uprisings you would like to share?

EN (42:53): Well, I think personally, we must get together when people start talking to each other, they start talking to each other, they'll get a chance to understand what's going on. And they can write that, that you know, they could get into that and make it right. But if we don't communicate and get the other side to see our point of view, and our life, then it will be a situation where there won't be that much change, very little change.

LZ (43:25): What was going through your mind when you first heard the United State Capitol was invaded?

EN (43:33): It was invaded and resurrection. I was mad. I was very mad. You know, mad because they give white boys privilege. If that was black people doing that, who came to DC? It'd be a lot of deaths. And it'd be a lot of people locked up in jail for a long time. They did that and allowed that to go down the insurrection? Right. You remember the Million Man March?

LZ (44:03): Yes. I remember.

EN (44:05): They went there to DC there was all over DC, right? Over a million man. Not one incident of anybody getting bothered by the police. Not one incident of anybody that was there getting pulled over? You know, and they didn't come to DC to cause any problems. That was an enlightening situation. You're right. to enlighten the world and enlightened. The superheroes. Superheroes are the people that take their life in their own hands and go out there in the front lines and make something happen. You know for the better.

LZ (44:56): What is your reaction to the invasion of US Capitol by Trump supporters on January 6, 2021?

EN (45:08): I don't like it. I don't like it one bit, because if this president wasn't in there, and being bold and figuring that these white people had the right to demonstrate and so far. That would have never happened. It won't happen like that, that was unnecessary to let our capital be invaded by people that was like against this government. Fine. Just get yourself to the point that when you have people that act like that, you have to make sure that the other people are watching that. And it has to be exposed to bring about change. But things happen behind closed doors, you don't know what's happening behind that door? How could you make a decision to change that? That's the same thing that's in this country, like these white people are acting a certain way and people close their eyes, and they don't want to deal with it. But they're gonna have to deal with this here. Because between all the people that's in this country, all the people of color, its gonna outnumber the white people. Because the white people are not having children like they used to. Okay, and if you put all the minorities together that's in this country, they basically, they almost as high as what the white people were. But what's gonna happen in the next generation is gonna be more people of color. So that's why right now, you see a lot of white women being with black men, you know, because they know their race is dying out. And people are now embracing people of color,

dark skin or whatever from different ethnic backgrounds. You know, you got to avoid doors that are black. you got the black people in Mexico; they got a whole village of black people. The true Mexicans have been there. They've been there. Now they've been coming to this part of the world for over 700 years. The white man been coming in for four and a half, five, like 400,000. Or like we say this way. A very large percentage are coming here. Right. But the amount of people that's coming here to the country, basically outnumber the white people. And that's why they are running around scared now. Because they figured this was their last stand, that they can get that many of them through the security they have in place now for DC. They just can't walk up inside they say well, I'm going to be DC. Oh, that's not gonna happen. So, it's changing, it's definitely changing.

LZ (47:53): What do you think about President Trump's reaction to the invasion?

EN (47:58): Oh, he's very upset. You said Trump?

LZ (48:04): Yeah.

EN (48: 05): Oh, Trump is happy.

LZ (48:08): Like his reaction?

EN (48:09): His reaction? It's okay with him. You don't find anything wrong with the people do because he literally thought that the democrats are trying to take the White House away from him. Yes, that's what's going to happen. But what are you going to do? You know, Biden, Joe.

LZ (48:28): Joe Biden.

EN (48:29): Yes. Joe Biden. The young lady, the vice president right. Kamala Harris. Barack Obama. These people are trying to bring about change. And when he gets on that scale, right. You can't change it. You can't stop it. Yeah, that's like a car, you put him at the top of the hill and take the brake off and let them go down the hill. We are on the line of this car traveling on his own down the hill. Where did you think you really gonna be able to jump in and stop that? There is no way. You're gonna get dragged down the street, period. You might get dead behind it too. There ain't nothing you can do about it. All you can do is just protest, protest, protest. If you can't get these police stations outside this country, in different variants of their uniform for a variety of different looks. And they're allowed to do that because the freedom of information and the rights. What you gotta do is come up with a way to do it. Got to sit down and talk about it and make a plan. That's the only way to change is gonna come about in this country. That's my opinion. That's just one thing. But that truth, I honestly believe more change could come out of this year. See, if people would just say, get together and organize in a more positive way. A lot of social change needs to be brought about. All racism that has been done in this country needs to be changed and dealt with. We can't allow this to keep going on. This is 2021. And you still have people that got problems. A set of people or a race of people, they probably don't even have a black person for a friend. You know what I'm saying?

LZ (50:31): Yes. I understand.

EN (50:33): There's a lot of people here in this country like that.

LZ (50:37): So, the follow up question is gonna be like, what do you think about the impeachment trial of former President Trump?

EN (50:49): I personally don't like the way it is. You know, people, too many people. Too many diehard Trump people still follow him. Because they like him. They feel that the other guys, they are too soft. They don't say what they mean, they mean what they say, they got that same thing out looking for, you know, the politicians now.

LZ (51:16): How do you explain the lack of hostility between two political party parties?

EN (51:23): It is ridiculous. Because you got a party to go to, something that you believe in. If you have a situation where you have a politician or a person who is trying to straighten out a politician, right? You don't give that person a fair chance to express their question to you. Then you know, because a lot of times, all it is, is something that could be taken care of. Like, you know, you say where you are coming from, to come home from friends, houses and things like that. You should be able to walk the streets, and don't have any fear about anybody attacking you, trying to rape you, or any type of stuff, right? So, when that happens like that, is by the people, the people get together and organize and make these changes come about. The government and all of them, all they got to do is put it into a bill and then get the other senators and congressmen and people representatives to try to resolve it that way. You got to have more. Like when I was a counselor for the organization that I was part of, we used to have meetings with the police. And when we have meetings with the police in the community center, we would have people from the neighborhood. That have problems with the police too. You know, having a situation where you can get people to organize, and demonstrate in a peaceful manner. So, these white people stop doing what they do. The evilness to black people and to the white people in this country. Look, you got more people on welfare than any time in history, and the majority of people on welfare and get food stamps and all that you know who they are.

EN (53:23): They're white.

EN (53:26): They make it difficult for us to get it. But they, as white people can get it whenever they want. Answer a few questions, fill out the application. Boom, they got it. But us? What do they see first? Before they see anything else. This.

LZ (53:44): The skin.

EN (53:44): The skin color and that changes the way they think about us. They look at us as we less than. So that's what we live on.

LZ (53:59): What is your reaction to the day of protests that happened following the death of George Floyd?

ED (54:12): I seen little bit of what was going on with George Floyd that got killed. I see he tried to defend himself. You know?

LZ (54:25): If you like, if you're tired or you don't feel comfortable?

EN (54:29): No, no. I said I'm getting tired. Yeah, I have no problem talking about anything. Let me tell you something. Let me say, let me tell you a quote. They say if you don't answer and talk to, your elders, right, and they go, you know what that's like if you burned down a library. Do you understand what I'm saying?

LZ (54:55): Yeah. I understand what you're saying.

EN (54:57): Because when you don't have anything on your own. You gotta to get information, where do you go? You go to a library.

LZ (55:04): Yes.

EN (55:06): To get your information. So, every time you let a senior citizen, person up in age pass away, you never sat down and talk to them. You let the library burn down.

LZ (55:19): The next question is gonna be how the ostracize of George Floyd and sequence fight influence you?

EN (55:30): I looked at it, it could affect me, because that can happen to me. Easily, I could walk out here minding my business, and walk right over there where my car is parked, right? Let the police come down the block and see me walk into the car, right? The only thing that will make them stop approaching me, if they see me with the oxygen on, they see me walking with a cane. This guy couldn't do anything, you know, but if I didn't have all of that, it'd be very easy for them to pull me over mistaking me for somebody else or doing some crime. So, it doesn't shock me. You know, it doesn't shock me one bit.

LZ (56:10): Consider your own interest in an explicit fight past or present how was your experience?

EN (56:18): How was my experience? In present fights me, personally?

LZ (56:22): Let me repeat the question again. Consider your own interest in explicit fight, past of present how was your experience if you consider this interest, like if he was involved in the fight?

EN (56:38): In the fight?

LZ (56:39): In the fight or?

EN (56:40): Yeah, okay. But I, me personally, I think in my whole life, I may have had five physical fights. Other than that, I didn't have people mess with me and I didn't mess with people. I was a young man back in the day. I didn't like any of my friends would be picked on by bullies or I don't care how big they were. I get a stick and I beat them like I was their father or a mother. If you bother one of my friends and make my friend cry when I was little, oh you're in trouble. I will chase you down and try to beat you with that stick. You know, I didn't care for people bullying people. So, if you was a friend of mine, and you had a bully that came along and bullied you. I'll go after him. And then later on, if I gotta fight them, I'll fight them. Like to win or to lose I didn't care. It's just I didn't know you're not gonna just pick on people because you feel like it that's how it was when me when I was young. You know, I didn't bother people I didn't look for trouble and nothing like that. I just, stand my ground about people being unjust. You know, not being fair to other people. You know, why should you bother somebody who's minding their own business. You're walking by and now you want to pick on them because you know they're not gonna fight you. You know that they don't want to be bothered with you. You know they just don't want to be bothered ain't looking for no problems. So, people like that I would go after you know I would go after I didn't, I didn't care. I didn't care you know. I didn't go around at all looking for trouble from anybody.

LZ (58:30): How have you been overseeing yourself during this time pandemic and how have you remained grateful?

EN (58:41): Well, I see myself as somebody who takes this Coronavirus, very serious and maybe a reason why I have taken it seriously because I was sick by it. Once you're sick by something like that, that affects so many people, so many counties and places in the United States and around the world. And now just had his, his weight at six. They say 16 pounds or whatever a pressure. After a while you can't function. You have to deal with that. You just can't let it keep going. Because all its gonna do is get bigger and bigger and bigger. If you don't, if you don't attack it or aggressively, go after it, to try to change it. It's gonna keep repeating itself. That's what happens. You know, it's like a big weight on you. A big hat. You know, we don't take the hat off and deal with that situation. That hat is going to get bigger and bigger and bigger; you know? So, you gotta look at it. Animated objects or type of things that we know that needs to be taken care of a certain way. If it's not dealt with. That's what happens. You know it just perpetuates itself. Just keeps going, keep going, keep going.

LZ (1:00:03): What is the effect of the COVID? What is the Coronavirus pandemic on your life right now?

EN (1:00:10): Recovery, the ability to socialize with people, you know, staying isolated in the house, things like that. That's how it's affected me now.

LZ (1:00:24): Many of us are limited in our movement and social interaction, discuss any weaknesses that have (inaudible) your ability to live in your life normally?

EN (1:00:39): Well, I think a lot of times with me, it's different. I mean, no different than anybody else. But you know, I'll actually be honest, (inaudible) We all have to feel like we belong together. You know, it can't be just like us. And them, you know what I'm saying?

LZ (1:00:57): Yeah.

EN (1:00:58): It has to be united; the people are getting united. That's what's happening in this country. Now. You know, when you see those demonstrations, you see a lot of you see a lot more white people in the demonstration, and you have blacks. And that's because they know, they've been privileged as they were growing up, they didn't have to deal with it. You know, because they might have been white. But believe me in that same time span, if you was black, forget about it, you're gonna get messed with. So, it affects you that way. They have to deal with it. They can't just keep letting it go. You can't let it go.

LZ (1:01:40): I see.

EN (1:01:48): So how many more questions do you have?

EN (1:01:50): A lot?

LZ (1:01:51): I still have two questions left.

EN (1:01:53): Right.

LZ (1:01:53): Yeah.

EN (1:01:54): That's it?

LZ (1:01:54): That's it.

EN (1:01:55): Okay, good.

LZ (1:01:56): What different can student protests made?

EN (1:02:05): Oh, they can make a big difference. Y 'all guys are the future. You're the future. They have to deal with you. Because the day is gonna come, there's gonna be more of you than them. They're gonna be getting old and dying off. You're gonna be taking over this world. And because of that, you got to deal with it. Student protests back in the 60s and 70s. And everything was serious.

LZ (1:02:31): Is there a safer way to protest, is that your message here?

EN (1:02:38): It's a little bit safer for now than what it was back in the 60s and 70s. You know, when I was young, because back then the cops didn't care. They can get away with things that they can't get away with today. Because it is these machines that we carry in our here. Everybody's a reporter. Everybody could film something and put it on TV. You know what we're going through now with George Floyd wasn't some lady standing on the sidewalk filming the whole thing. We wouldn't even be in trial today. This guy would have never got fired, never got put in jail or anything like that.

LZ (1:03:16): Okay, thank you for taking your time for this interview, Mr. Neely. I really appreciate for you to give me the time for this interview. And thank you again.

EN (1:03:33): Okay, you're welcome.

LZ (1:03:34): Yeah.

EN (1:03:35): I Hope you get a good one. You gonna get a good one.

LZ (1:03:37): This is the end of the interview, like I did to my uncle, at the same my uncle, at the same time my stepfather. I really appreciate this interview. I really enjoyed it, thank you so much.

EN (1:03:51): You're welcome.