

[pause 00:00:00]

Stanley Grizzle: Interview of M-- C. Milton Hog of Montreal- in Montreal at his home, 2035 Regent Avenue on November 20th, 1987. Uh, for the record, what is your full name, Milton?

Charles Allen Milton Hog: Charles Allen Milton Hog.

Stanley: You were born when? Your birthdate?

Milton: 27th of May, 1921.

Stanley: And, where were you born?

Milton: Montreal, Canada.

Stanley: Based where? You left Canada in other words when?

Milton: 1924.

Stanley: And you went where?

Milton: Jamaica.

Stanley: That's the birthplace of your parents?

Milton: Yeah.

Stanley: And how long did you live there?

Milton: Until 1946.

Stanley: Oh, yes. You came back on your own, or with your parents?

Milton: Back on my own.

Stanley: And, uh, what was the reason why you came back to Canada?

Milton: It was more an adventure.

Stanley: You worked on the Canadian Pacific Railway as a porter, um--

Milton: For 18 years.

Stanley: When did you- when did you take that job? Approximately what date?

Milton: It was in October, 1947.

Stanley: And you worked as a sleeping car porter?

Milton: Yeah.

Stanley: For how long?

Milton: For 18 years.

Stanley: Uh-huh. Now, um, why did you take the job of a sleeping car porter?

Milton: Because that was the only, um, avail-available job that was- would be able to give you a remuneration, that would you'd be able to live a half-decent life in those days.

Stanley: So you-you-you joined the Canadian Pacific Railway Company, as sleeping car porter, uh, at a time when the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters was already on the CPR property?

Milton: Yes, it's-it was in its infancy-

Stanley: Right.

Milton: -pretty there.

Stanley: Uh-huh. Were you a member of that union?

Milton: Yes.

Stanley: Um, why did you join the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters?

Milton: Well, I always believed in-in the unions. In fact, I was an active uh, participant in, an officer unions in Jamaica.

Stanley: And which unions were they?

Milton: I was connected to the PNP.

Stanley: That's the People's National Party?

Milton: Party. Yeah.

Stanley: Mm. And, uh, what kind of work were you doing?

Milton: We helped to organize the sugar cane workers.

Stanley: But uh, specifically, uh, uh, if you can be specific, is it what if- what uh, attracted you to become a member of this organization in Canada? The-the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters?

Milton: Well, I-I wouldn't say anything specific. When I became a member of- on the porter staff, I realized there was a union-union in the, uh, in existence so therefore I-I joined it.

Stanley: Right, well once you joined it uh, what did you think of the union?

Milton: Well, like everything else, it had its deficiencies. And I-I endeavoured to add my contributions towards making it a better union as best I could.

Stanley: Mm-hmm. You were a member of the Montreal CPR Division?

Milton: Yes.

Stanley: And, uh, do you remember what the joining fee was, and what the dues were at the time you joined?

Milton: Oh, oh, in those days there weren't any check off. I don't remember exactly how much it was.

Stanley: So you-you don't remember either the joining fee, or the monthly dues?

Milton: No.

Stanley: Huh. Um-

Milton: I think--

Stanley: Were you ever-- Mm?

Milton: \$25, I-I-I think I remember something about \$25. I don't remember if it was \$25 joining fee or--

Stanley: I see. Mm-hmm. Were you a-active in any official capacity with union at any time?

Milton: Yes, I-I took a- I was local- one of the local officials.

Stanley: What? Which?

Milton: I was on the Grievance Committee.

Stanley: A member of the Local Grievance Committee?

Milton: Yeah.

Stanley: Uh-huh. Who were the other members of the Grievance Committee? Well, first of all, tell me when that was. Approximately what year?

Milton: Oh, Lord, I can't. That's too much to-I can't go back that far.

Stanley: Were you a member, uh, when you joined the Grievance Committee?

Milton: Mm-mm.

Stanley: Or was it near the time of your- when you first joined the CPR, and the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters? Or it was near the end of your term?

Milton: It was near around the middle of it.

Stanley: I see.

Milton: And then after a few years, after I joined, Blanchette came-came to, uh, came to Montreal, established his office here, and I was very closely, um, connected with Blanchette.

Stanley: Mm-hmm.

Milton: In fact, I was considered one of his advisors on these matters pertaining to the-- I took an active part in different cases and different things that came up concerning the union in different parts of the country. And I had--had an influence in the--the decisions that were made, concerning appeals that were to be handled, and how they were handled. And on what grounds they were to-- they were handled, because I had the benefit of, uh, legal trainin'-

Stanley: Yeah.

Milton: -before I came here.

Stanley: Is that so?

Milton: Yeah.

Stanley: What--what kind of legal training did you do?

Milton: I worked for the judicial department of government in Jamaica yeah-

Stanley: Oh, yeah.

Milton: -courts. Courts Office, so Blanchette was aware of that and he--he uh, he utilized the uh, those assets that I had, make use to it.

Stanley: Have you any idea, well--well, that--that's one position you worked in uh, I seemed to call--recall you were quite active in the-- Were you not active in more than one uh, area in the local division other than Grievance Committee? Weren't you an officer in other- in another area?

Milton: At one time I think I was the Vice President. Uh, I was an acting Secreta- I was a Secretary, Assistant Secretary-Treasurer. I was different-- uh, I occupied different positions.

Stanley: We would like to have it for the record. [chuckles]

Milton: And then I--I was, um, I was a delegate from the Local-Local to the Quebec, um, Labour Council.

Stanley: Oh, yes.

Milton: And the Quebec Human Rights. I was a Brotherhood's delegate. I attended seminars on behalf of the, conducted by the Quebec um, Labour Council. And the Brotherhood even sent me at uh, seminar uh, one week. I think it was 10 days, training seminar in the, whh, Laurentians.

Stanley: Oh yeah. Was it the labour school down there?

Milton: The labour school, yeah.

Stanley: Yes. Yes, that's right.

Milton: That's one of the pictures I was lookin' forward to give it to you-

Stanley: Oh, you'll give it to me.

Milton: -and I can't find it. If I come across it, I'll post it onto you.

Stanley: Yeah. That's one, one area I'm short of, is it the activities of the Brother out- the Brotherhood members outside of the Brotherhood.

Milton: Yeah.

Stanley: To show that we were active in community affairs.

Milton: Oh yeah.

Stanley: You know?

Milton: Oh, this I was the only, I was the only Black, um, Black representative in a group of about 50 of us, and the big-- It's a big, huge picture.

Stanley: And you can't find it? [laughs]

Milton: I don't know where it is. It's somewhere-somewhere. I had it, it's not so long ago.

Stanley: Well, you mentioned the Quebec Labour Council. I wonder if they have an office here.

Milton: Yes. Um, uh, what's this fellow's name now? Short-short, um. Sh-short chap. Um.

Stanley: Well, never mind we, we don't wanna waste too much time on that now-

Milton: Yeah.

Stanley: -if you think of the, uh, tell me how I can get in touch with them.

Milton: Yeah.

Stanley: I may look through their records. Tell me, uh, about all the committees and executive positions you've held, served on?

Milton: Yes. Uh--

Stanley: Alright, um. There were some uh, dissenters, those who did not um, support the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters as there are in every organization. Have you any idea what their main criticism was of the organization?

Milton: It was mostly the fees. They didn't want to pay the fees.

Stanley: I see.

Milton: And the latter part of the year, when the fees were, then they-- Not so much amount of fees, but the assessments.

Stanley: I see. But, uh, was it met with the membership generally satisfied with the services that the organization gave them or--?

Milton: On the whole I said, yes. In all organizations, you will find a certain amount of dissatisfaction, but the vast majority.

Stanley: Now, can you tell me who um, since you joined the Brotherhood in the early days, you must have heard some discussions about who the key uh, founding members of the organization were. Have you any idea?

Milton: Oh, I-I really don't remember their names now. I think Clarence S. and Fari would be able to give you those [unintelligible 00:12:58].

Stanley: Tell what you know.

Milton: No, I-I-I prefer not to call any names here, because either, Russell, CC Russell. I know he was one that took an active interest in it.

Stanley: I understand his wife's still living, she was, he was active with a PN- he was active with the PNB.

Milton: I don't know if his wife is living or-or

Stanley: I see.

Milton: I can-I can, to be honest, I can't give you very much, um--

Stanley: Well, I know I can recall. I mean, I've heard-I've heard about who the pioneers were-

Milton: Yeah.

Stanley: -in the organization and, uh, I thought pressure might be able to on that basis, you know, recall who you heard were the key organizers. There-there is some questions-- There are some questions being asked about certain names being bandaid around now, and I'm trying to straighten the record, you know?

Milton: I really don't know. I-I haven't got any idea. I can only tell you about what's was happened locally here.

Stanley: Well, that's what I mean locally. You haven't told me about the key organizers here. You mentioned...

Milton: Oh, locally here?

Stanley: Yeah.

Milton: Well uh, one of the key men that was around here, it was Marcus Dash. Marcus Dash, and um, you had Coleman.

Stanley: Mm-hmm.

Milton: Clarence Coleman.

Stanley: Mm-hmm.

Milton: And, um, you have Sa-SR Louis, Bartholomew. I know Sandy uh, uh- Sandy Lawrence.

Stanley: Oh yes.

Milton: Those were the key local men.

Stanley: How about Toronto? Did you ever hear about Toronto?

Milton: Well uh, Chevalier, and of course yourself. I really didn't know. I- the only person that I really knew [crosstalk]--

Stanley: I want to call out names, and perhaps you can tell me whether- what-what your opinion is? How about Charlie Baldwin?

Milton: I don't know much about him.

Stanley: You didn't know him?

Milton: No.

Stanley: How about Harry Gairey?

Milton: Yes, Gairey. I knew, well, I knew Gairey as a Porter Instructor.

Stanley: Yeah, but I'm talkin' about the union [unintelligible 00:15:39].

Milton: No-no-no. I didn't know him. I knew him in the, um, where the human rights area is concerned.

Stanley: Any idea uh, of how the presence of the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters on the Canadian Pacific Railway changed the uh, working conditions of the porters?

Milton: Well, I know the, just the knowledge of knowing that the Brother-Brotherhood was um, around, had quite a- quite a effect on the um, Management. And um-

Stanley: Mm-hhmm. Who would [crosstalk]--

Milton: -that in- that in itself, that in itself had quite uh, uh, if uh, that in itself had quite an effect of how they treated you, and especially um, when they were going to-- It got to a stage when they're going to write you up, or things like that, they made sure that they-they had something on you, because they know they had to contend with their Brother-

Brotherhood. And if they realized that um, they suspected that you weren't connected to the Brotherhood, then they-they had, there were no precautions taken in what they said.

Stanley: So it sounds as if they were checking on the membership lists?

Milton: In a way, because it wasn't, uh, there were few-few in number that were outside the realms of the-the Brotherhood. So everybody knew as it were, who were Brotherhood members, who weren't.

Stanley: What about the-the uh, Ladies' Auxiliary to the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters? Would you--? Were any members of your family uh, members of the Ladies' Auxiliary?

Milton: At one time, my wife was um-

Stanley: I see.

Milton: -was a member of the Ladies' Auxiliary when it was functioning. But after- but after a while the-the Ladies Auxiliary of the Local here went to pieces.

Stanley: Why is that?

Milton: I don't know. They just no longer it functioned.

Stanley: Who were the heads of that organization?

Milton: Oh, I don't, like, that's years ago.

Stanley: Well, perhaps I can interview your wife about that.

Milton: I don't really think she'll remember, that's over 30 years ago now hey.

Stanley: What, um, did you think of the leadership provided by-by uh, A Philip Randolph?

Milton: My personal opinion of Randolph is one of the ablest men that the Black man was able to have as a leader.

Stanley: Oh yes.

Milton: Unfortunately, I can't say the same for many of his assistants.

Stanley: I see. What did you think of the leadership provided by uh, by uh, Benny Smith?

Milton: I personally don't think too much of Benny Smith. He had his part to play, but as for a leader, I-I didn't give him too much a rating or a credit.

Stanley: How about, uh, Arthur Blanchette?

Milton: I consider Blanchette was one-one of our great leaders, but unfortunately my opinion, Blanchette did not live up to his full potential. He was too-- If you want to say conservative or so. He did not-- where the Brotherhood was served, he served the

Brotherhood well. But I personally-- This is my personal feeling, and Blanchette is a person-- was a personal friend of mine. But with his pre- um, his qualifications and so on, I think he could have served the Black community much better, if he wasn't that drawn in, uh, conservative. If he had taken-- taken the bull more by the horn and gone out and--

Stanley: Getting back to the Ladies' Auxiliary, do you think there was a uh, they served a good need? Uh--

Milton: Not in Montreal.

Stanley: No? The philosophy of the Ladies' Auxiliary to the Brotherhood was to-- to, uh, solidify the, uh, the home in-- in the spirit of, uh-- of, uh, good trade unionism. And that was the theory behind having the Ladies' Auxiliary, but you don't think it worked out too well here?

Milton: No, I-- Maybe the-- the early years, but I know in the latter years it's uh, did not fulfill its expectations.

Stanley: Did you-- did you encounter many White uh, porters during your service, sleeping car porters?

Milton: Yeah, a few.

Stanley: What was their attitude toward this uh, may I say Black union, since all the leaders was-- were Black? Did you find any uh, antipathy towards the union?

Milton: No. In fact, I-- My-- my, um, opinion was that the few that I had, they just didn't care all right. They-- they had a job, they were being protected, and that's all they were interested in.

Stanley: Did you find any resistance from them in chipping dues?

Milton: No. I tell you honest truth, they-- th-- the-- If they had any resentment, they didn't show it.

Stanley: How many White porters did you think you-- did you encounter roughly?

Milton: About a dozen.

Stanley: This is in the-- in the Montreal Division?

Milton: Yeah.

Stanley: Were they all French speaking?

Milton: Yes, I think so. I don't-- I don't even think it was quite a dozen.

Stanley: You, uh-- Did you ever attend any of the Brotherhood conventions?

Milton: Yes.

Stanley: How many, in order?

Milton: Oh, St. Louis, New York, [unintelligible 00:24:09]. Three.

Stanley: What were your- what were your impressions of the conventions?

Milton: Oh, just say it was a convention like most conventions. They, uh-- I-I wouldn't say they were-were managed anything much different. Most of the things were pretty near cut and dried. And-

Stanley: [giggling]

Milton: -so just formal-- It's a formal get-together to give crown-- As it were, crown-crowning the king.

Stanley: Did the Canadian delegation participate?

Milton: Yes. The last time we-- Yeah, they-they did. And they got a few concessions too, especially the St. Louis one.

Stanley: That was early, back in the '50s, wasn't it?

Milton: Uh, this, yeah it's '60s.

Stanley: '60s?

Milton: '60s, '70s.

Stanley: Who were the delegate down- that you saw down there?

Milton: It was myself and Dash from here.

Stanley: Mm-hmm.

Milton: And who it was from Toronto, I don't remember.

Stanley: I see. Now, the Brotherhood has been given the credit, in some quarters, for having spawned some organizations. Uh, do you re--

Milton: Having what?

Stanley: Having helped to form organizations from the community.

Milton: Yeah.

Stanley: Or they inspired the formation of other organizations.

Milton: Yeah.

Stanley: Do you believe this is true?

Milton: I don't know. I know they haven't done anything here, but to my knowledge.

Stanley: Oh, I see.

Milton: Maybe they did it in the States. I am not aware of them doing anything in Canada.

Stanley: I see. I got the impression that the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters, some of the members formed the economic groups, investment groups, and became out of the inspiration from the union.

Milton: Well, I know members of the um, the um, the-the Brotherhood, they took active part because-- Don't forget in those days, the Black community or leaders in the Black community were all men that worked on the roads. And they-they themselves, that took part in the- in the um, the welfare of local conditions and local individuals, and local conditions. But they do it, but it's not through the efforts of the-the Brotherhood. The Brotherhood had a-- I-I took part, I-I-- In fact when I came up from Jamaica and so on, several of us here, they-they didn't have a pro- uh, a decent uh, Black organization in Montreal going. And we got together and we form-formed a group and everything with the help of some friends- some White friends, and we formed a group NCA.

Stanley: What does the NCA stand for?

Milton: Negro Community-- Negro Citizenship Association.

Stanley: Mr. Adams was head of that. Was he? Freddy?

Milton: Yeah. At one time Adams was, um-- He wasn't a head, but he was one of the officers of it. And we did some good credible work, and the Brotherhood had nothing to-to do with it. Although quite a number of the officers were uh, members of the Brotherhood.

Stanley: Right. Um, just to give the interview a little light touch, I'm gonna ask you if you can give me some-- First of all, I want you to give me some nicknames of porters.

Milton: Oh Lord. I-- Gosh, I don't think I remember any of that--

Stanley: You don't remember? I ran across a few humorous ones I thought perhaps you might remember.

Milton: No.

Stanley: Alright. How about do you have any anecdotes you'd like to tell, any experiences you'd like to tell that you, um, you had on the railroad as a porter, or with-with the union?

Milton: No, I'm afraid Stan I-I haven't got-- Well, you see, I've- I got out of the porter's classification for so long.

Stanley: Yeah.

Milton: And then I worked into another classification, and all the-my connections as it were in that form of um, classification, I seem to-to forget most of the things. It's only if any

matter should come up, and anything could come to rekindle a matter that transpired, uh, it may come to memory, but--

Stanley: Would you like to make a concluding statement then, in the light of this--the nature of this interview, do you have any comments you'd like to make in conclusion?

Milton: Well, it's all-- it's--

Stanley: Well, let me put it this way about the--the impact that the Brotherhood had on the uh, Black community locally or otherwise?

Milton: Well, I can say that the input of the um, Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters on the Black community as a whole cannot be underestimated, because in those days the Black--the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters in most parts of the country was a Negro-- Negro's voice. That's the only voice that they had. And um, the experiences that were--were um-- that we got from what transpired in some of these uh, spread to other, uh- other areas, and people were able to adjust to the, um-- Any coming um, adverse conditions that people-- others may--may have had in their minds to implement. And through--through the encouragement of Brotherhood um, solidarity and the experien- uh, opportunities that were given to porters that they didn't have formerly through the inspir- um, through the--through the um, auspice-- uh, auspices of the Brotherhood, um, Negro's uh, had a certain amount of um-- They gained an amount of self-respect for themselves and dignity. And therefore uh, it-it-- Even on today's youth, you can go back and trace it back that the--the uh, the elementary and most elementary thing that today's youth can, can is that um, self-respect and dignity. And that was the--the theme, in my opinion, on the foundation of which the Brotherhood was built, and preached its gospel. And that sank into the Black man, and up to this- to this day, it is still exists.

Stanley: When you left these- the porter classification, what year was that did you say?

Milton: Uh, that's--this is '60--

Stanley: '66 I believe you said.

Milton: '64. '64-- '64 or '65.

Stanley: You went into which classification? You transferred, carrying your seniority to which department?

Milton: Computing Department.

Stanley: I see. Alright. One last question. Um, what did you think of the--of the practice of tipping?

Milton: It was, as it were-- It was degrading to a certain extent, but that-- We went into the field knowing that was part of what to expect. So the average person did not consider the degrading part of um, of that, uh, attitude, because, you know, you were-- a lot of us took that porter's job just through necessity. I don't even want--like cleaning my own shoes. I paid to clean my own shoes, but I had to clean other people's shoes so as to be able to have a--

make a decent livin' and to maintain my family, because there wasn't any opportunity open to me in those days. I came here with my degrees and I couldn't get a decent job. What jobs that gave- uh, was offered to me, it may carry a tackle, but what was being offered in the non-monetary area, I couldn't live on that. So I had-had to go and where I could make a few dollars, and maintain the standard of living that I was accustomed to uh, from home.

Stanley: So tips were pretty good at one time?

Milton: The pre- tips were good because you take, for instance, now a person may not like- like the idea of ha-having to accept tips and so on, but there is no other way you're gonna get the money. So therefore you-you take it.

Stanley: Do you remember what the biggest tip you-you received ever?

Milton: \$350.

Stanley: One tip?

Milton: Yeah.

Stanley: Really?

Milton: Bank of Canada.

Stanley: Is that true? What service did you provide, to how many people, for how long?

Milton: Uh, it was what? Two weeks? Two or three weeks.

Stanley: Mm-hmm.

Milton: And I had um, the Governor Gr-Graham, was it Graham? And 12 directors.

Stanley: Where-where did they travel from and to?

Milton: Right across the country for three weeks.

Stanley: Alright.

Milton: And the-the Bank- Bank of Canada gave me \$350.

Stanley: No wonder you can't stop smiling. [laughs]

Milton: That was a good uh-- He was a- he was a good man always.

Stanley: Alright. One last question. I learned way later in the interview that you had some degrees, what degrees did you have?

Milton: Well, [chuckles] I haven't seen a Cambridge. Um, it was not a degree as-as such in the senior Cambridge- of Cambridge University. That-that is the one, uh, senior-- Your senior Cambridge certificate is the one that lets you into, um, a university entrance.

Stanley: Oh, I see.

Milton: Yeah, and university. And then, uh, of course, I had a management um, business management correspondence course.

Stanley: Mm-hmm. I see. Alright.

Milton: And, uh, I-I did some union courses, uh, but I haven't had formal degrees in uh--

Stanley: Alright. Milton Hog. I wanna thank you very much for the opportunity to-to interview you. [phone rings]

Milton: Well, the pleasure was mine. [sound cut]

Stanley: End of interview with Milton Hog. [tape recorder clicks on and off. Interview of Harold Osburn Eastman uh, of Montreal at the Ramada Inn, Guy Dorchester, 24th of November, 1987 at uh, 12:25 PM. Brother Eastman uh, for the record. give me your full name.

Harold Osburn Eastman: Harold Osburn Eastman.

Stanley: Yes. And you were, uh-- When is your birth date?

Harold: October the 22nd, 1922.

Stanley: Oh, and uh, where were you born?

Harold: Barbados.

Stanley: Uh-huh. When did you come to Canada?

Harold: I came to Canada, the 14th of May, 1942.

Stanley: Mm-hmm. Why did you come to Canada?

Harold: To join the Canadian Army.

Stanley: And, um, by joining the Cana-- Did you join the Canadian Army?

Harold: No, the-there was 36 of us that came up to the Canadian Army, and Eric Gittens and I were exempted from the Army for medical reason.

Stanley: Oh, I see. Is that the same Gittens who was involved with this community--

Harold: [crosstalk] No, no, no. Eric Gittens, he died about 10 years ago.

Stanley: Is that so?

Harold: Yeah.

Stanley: Uh, just-- Since you mentioned the army um, it's my impression that, uh, those who served in the Canadian Army from the Commonwealth countries, uh, not having Canadian citizenship could earn their citizenship as a Canadian by serving in the Armed Forces. Is that true?

Harold: Oh yes. Yes.

Stanley: Mm-hmm. Do you know anybody who did serve, who became citizens through that route?

Harold: Oh, well the-the night we were having a banquet with all the fellas that came up from the islands.

Stanley: Where?

Harold: At um, the Montreal Westin Hall.

Stanley: Oh, is that so?

Harold: Yeah, it's a dinner. You know, all the fellas, every year we do this.

Stanley: Do you think I could drop in?

Harold: Yes, you can.

Stanley: Yeah. Well, you know?

Harold: Yes.

Stanley: Oh, that's very interesting.

Harold: Yes.

Stanley: How many would there be?

Harold: I beg your pardon?

Stanley: That would be an interesting event to attend. How many would be there?

Harold: It's going to be quite- it is going to be a big outfit, there is a dinner-

Stanley: Oh.

Harold: -at-- It cost \$32. It's a dinner and, uh-

Stanley: Dance?

Harold: Yes. And the guest speaker is going to be Rosanne Rosmolan. You know- you heard about her? She's a lawyer.

Stanley: I know her.

Harold: Yeah. Her.

Stanley: I'll meet her.

Harold: Ronita Rosmolan.

Stanley: Is that so?

Harold: And the Ambassador of Barbados, he's going to be there.

Stanley: Oh, I know him.

Harold: Yeah.

Stanley: Is he the same one I met in Toronto or--?

Harold: Yes, it has to be, um-

Stanley: [unintelligible 00:41:20].

Harold: No, Morgan. Peter Morgan.

Stanley: Peter Morgan?

Harold: Yeah.

Stanley: Oh, yes. I know him. Yes.

Harold: Yeah. Yes.

Stanley: Oh, I see. But this is not only Barbadian though?

Harold: I beg pardon?

Stanley: It's not only for Barbadians?

Harold: No, no. It is all the-the-the Jamaicans there, most of the first that came from the West Indies.

Stanley: I served in the army too. I'd find that interesting to attend.

Harold: Yeah well--

Stanley: It's \$32 hey?

Harold: Yeah. I was- I can give you a ticket if you're interested in coming.

Stanley: Sure.

Harold: Yeah. I can sell you a ticket. You wanna come?

Stanley: Well, you change it from give to sell?

Harold: [laughter] Well, I have to- I have to pay for it. I-I have to pay for it.

Stanley: You see how I pick on all those words?

Harold: Yes, yes, yes. I know you're- I know you're pretty sharp. [laughter]

Stanley: You got me all excited for a minute. I thought, "Oh, I've got a free dinner." It's only money. I've never seen a hearse pull a U-Haul, so I don't worry about it.

Harold: No, that's quite true. That's quite true. That's quite true, Stan.

Stanley: Am I right?

Harold: If we would realize that it's only money, we would treat human race differently.

Stanley: That's right, exactly.

Harold: Because regardless of how much money we got, we all- this is one thing that God made fair, death and sickness. And we come in this world with nothin', and we take nothin' with us.

Stanley: That's for sure. Anyway, we-we better get on with the-the show here since we're on tape.

Harold: Yeah. Yeah.

Stanley: It's an interesting conversation.

Harold: Yeah.

Stanley: Mm-hmm. Alright, um-- [sound cut] First job in Canada?

Harold: My first job in Canada was Canadian Tube and Steel.

Stanley: I see. Uh, you became a sleeping car porter, I understand?

Harold: Yes, I did.

Stanley: When?

Harold: The 7th of February, 1944.

Stanley: Which-which railroad?

Harold: Canadian Pacific.

Stanley: Mm-hmm. And why did you take that job?

Harold: Because after I went lookin' for jobs at different companies, I was made to understand that CP and CNR had jobs for me as a porter.

Stanley: Mm-hmm. I see.

Harold: Yes.

Stanley: And you preferred doing that job to the job were doin' before?

Harold: Yes, I did.

Stanley: Why?

Harold: Because the job that I did before, it was workin' in scrap irons, and I find it kind of hard.

Stanley: Mm-hmm.

Harold: But I had to have a job, because I was new in Canada, and I had to be able to make some money.

Stanley: Right. And uh, how long were you a sleeping car porter?

Harold: 44 years.

Stanley: You were a sleeping car porter for 44 years?

Harold: I started in 1944-

Stanley: Yes.

Harold: -and I retired in 1980-- 40 years, I retired in 1982.

Stanley: So that's not 44 years.

Harold: It's about 42 years?

Stanley: You started- you started what year?

Harold: The 7th of February, 1944.

Stanley: And you finished what date?

Harold: Um, I don't remember the-the exact date, but I finished in-in '83.

Stanley: So that's 30, 39?

Harold: 40 years.

Stanley: 39 years. Yeah. 39 years.

Harold: Yeah.

Stanley: 39 years. Right, depending on which month you retired.

Harold: 44 and '84, '84. I had 40 years when I retired.

Stanley: You said 83.

Harold: '84. I had 40 years when I retired.

Stanley: Did you enjoy the job?

Harold: Well, I enjoyed it. It had good days and bad days.

Stanley: Right. Just out of curiosity, what-what-what's your CPR pension?

Harold: Now?

Stanley: Yeah.

Harold: Well, I retired for Via Rail.

Stanley: Oh yeah?

Harold: Yeah. And my pension, which I am sorry I took before, because at 61, the-

Stanley: Mm-hmm.

Harold: -they offered me some money, but if they hadda told me that I would've lost 20% of my pension, but they never mentioned that to you. But my pension is \$1,300 a month.

Stanley: I see. Now, how long did you work for Via?

Harold: I worked for Via from 1979-

Stanley: I see.

Harold: -to 1984.

Stanley: What month in '79? Do you know?

Harold: I think it's September. I think it was amalgamation we moved over to Via.

Stanley: Now during- when you transferred from the- from Canadian Pacific to Via. And that was because of the, uh-

Harold: Amalgamation.

Stanley: -amalgamation of the two passenger uh, services, right?

Harold: Yeah.

Stanley: Um, what was it noted- what-what did you notice most about the conditions of work?

Harold: Well, the-

Stanley: The, uh, the remuneration? The contractual benefits?

Harold: Well Via Rail, I have to give that a lot of compliments, because working for Via Rail, I was able to move to a Dining Car Steward-

Stanley: Right.

Harold: -which would give me a bigger pension rate.

Stanley: Mm-hmm.

Harold: So I- although I had obstacles, which was Doug Doby and-and Lionel [unintelligible 00:46:34]. Because Doug Doby had mentioned to me that I was-- When I applied for my Dining Car Steward, because it goes by seniority, and you had to write examinations. He said to me that as long as he there I would never be a Dining Car Steward.

Stanley: Why? [sound cut]

[pause 00:46:54]