

The Association for Diplomatic Studies and Training
Foreign Affairs Oral History Project
Labor Series

ALICE W. SHURCLIFF

*Interviewed by: Morris Weisz
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INTERVIEW

[Note: This interview was not edited by Ms. Shurcliff.]

Q: This is Morris Weisz interviewing Alice Shurcliff who worked in various capacities in the international field generally and in the international labor field specifically. She worked also for the Labor Department and other agencies. The date is Tuesday, May 18, 1993, and we are sitting in a charming cottage in Collington where Alice Shurcliff has settled, and where she lives very frequently.

We were able to get her to interview this morning. Alice was kind enough to give me a one-page sheet which describes her background and which we will insert at some point in a transcript of her interview . I still want her to expand on certain items, even that page. Alice, you give little about your background and I told you when I came in I didn't know much about. I had spotted you as a typical middle-class conservative person coming from Massachusetts who had gained an appreciation of the importance of labor from some intellectual appreciation. This is as many of our interviewees have done. I find that you come from a family which actually was involved in the earliest civil liberties and trade union work in Massachusetts, but you still came from a middle-class family.

SHURCLIFF: No, upper.

Q: Upper class?

SHURCLIFF: Oh yes. Hey, we had to fill the middle class but we didn't have much use for the upper class. They'd take leadership, and the lower class worked hard. They had found the middle class had all of these horrible values, so I always looked down on the middle class.

Q: Very interesting. Usually what we find is very wealthy people take two or three generations like the Rockefellers before they get a social conscience. You say in your first page that your mother was active in civil liberties work and trade union work which interests me very much. You mentioned---which you did not mention on this one page--- something that I think is highly interesting in terms of your own background. That is that the American Civil Liberties Union was formed in your home.

SHURCLIFF: Yes.

Q: That would have been during or shortly after WWI. This is quite interesting. How did that fit in to what I gather from your references to your family being an upper-class family with the status of wealth, income, property that I assume your family may have had?

SHURCLIFF: We always had enough. My father earned a lot and worked very hard.

Q: What was his work?

SHURCLIFF: Landscape architect. He was very well known. He did historic Williamsburg, Virginia and many private places, many colleges. So both my parents were outstanding people. They were both very good parents. You know sometimes that doesn't follow, but in our case we all felt very lucky.

Q: They love society in some cases but don't get along with their own children.

SHURCLIFF: No, Father didn't like society; he didn't want to go to parties. He got up every morning early, got to the office by 7:30 or 8:00, came home by 6:30. He didn't like to talk during meals and he never told us what he was doing. Now that somebody is writing a biography of him, I am learning all sorts of things. I think he wanted to keep his family life and his work life separate.

Q: Your father earned his wealth rather than inherited it.

SHURCLIFF: Yes, he earned every nickel of it. He worked with a lot of rich and powerful people. He admired them; he didn't admire their wealth. He admired their other qualities.

Q: And your mother's background?

SHURCLIFF: Mother came from a family which had more wealth. My grandfather was a physician who practiced in Boston in the winter and Rye Beach in the summer. He had two sisters, and they lived in a very nice house on Mount Vernon Street. Father's parents lived in a small house on West Cedar Street just a few blocks away from Beacon Hill. Eventually they met and married and had six children. They lived halfway between their two sets of parents, so they never moved much.

Q: Oh, really. You grew up in an atmosphere where your mother was active in trade unions. You say in this first page that you are surprised by how little credit is given to women in the early trade union movement.

SHURCLIFF: Yes. When you read in here, you will see what they did.

Q: When you say in here you mean your mother's autobiography, Lending to Us, We Will Return.

SHURCLIFF: What I want you to understand is Mother was great on civil liberties, strikes and all that. I mean she would get up and go out before breakfast and be with the pickets.

Q: This is not only civil liberties in the term that we know it now, but also trade union rights which in some cases were separate.

SHURCLIFF: Yes. I think she thought that because she knew a lot of rich people. She felt she could get the rich people and the trade union leaders to discuss these matters and bargain collectively. She didn't have much luck.

Q: Just a comment that the same thing was going on in other areas. We are just now coming to understand the contribution made by women. Peterson was very active in arranging for the recognition of Mother Jones and Mary Anderson and people like that for their early contributions. They are certainly correct so the hall of fame at the Labor Department is appropriate. Have you seen it yet?

SHURCLIFF: No.

Q: It is interesting that we have---due to the pressure of people like Esther---a number of women installed, and not only Perkins (Frances Perkins, Secretary of Labor under Roosevelt) who had that sort of social backing.

SHURCLIFF: Oh good. I knew her; she came to our house occasionally.

Q: Did you meet her?

SHURCLIFF: Yes, her daughter was in my class at Bryn Mawr. I didn't know her daughter, but I could have.

Q: So what we have here is you should visit the Labor Hall of Fame with Mary Anderson, Mother Jones, and Frances Perkins. I don't know of any other women, but there is an active effort. What has happened in this field, my observation would be, is that each individual union or some localities would remember the contribution that was made by women who supported the picket lines and things like that. I never got into the history.

SHURCLIFF: Well, I have.

Q: So that is one of the questions you have. At any rate, you were brought up in this environment.

SHURCLIFF: I went to private school with the rich girls. My father always insisted that I was not going to be driven to school by a chauffeur; I could just take the trolley car. He didn't want me to get delusions of grandeur.

Q: Coming from a poor family, I ask you how could you not have delusions of grandeur when all these advantages were so obvious. It was easy for me to become a trade unionist. What else could I do? In your case, however, the temptation of taking advantage of your

status, wealth, etc., would be difficult to resist. I think people should get extra credit for being able to ignore that.

SHURCLIFF: I didn't feel that I was ignoring it. During the depression, I think that the rich families were the worst off. It was their fathers that jumped out the windows at the time of the stock crash. So, I always felt equal of everybody, I think, rich and poor. I didn't equate money with the way you would decide if you like something.

Q: Well, that is an interesting background, and I'm glad to learn a little bit more of the details of it. You went to private schools through high school I gather. What about your siblings? Were they of the same type?

SHURCLIFF: Yes. They all went to private school and to Harvard and to graduate school, except Jack who didn't get through Harvard. At any rate, Father thought the most important thing you could give your children was a good education and he was determined to do so.

Q: None of them turned out to be the negative picture of capitalists. All of them retained the standards of your family?

SHURCLIFF: Yes. I don't know why you ask me these questions.

Q: I ask you that because in my experience for people coming from wealth, it is a different sort of wealth.

SHURCLIFF: We didn't have wealth in the bank; we had wealth that Father was earning. When you asked him why he worked so hard, he said to provide shredded wheat for the family. I think he meant to support us. When he died there wasn't much left; he had used it all for us.

Q: And your mother, she had some wealth?

SHURCLIFF: Some, but wealth wasn't what life was about in Boston at that time.

Q: That is interesting; generally your siblings shared those values. Well, you went to school and then into Bryn Mawr.

SHURCLIFF: Then I went to the New York School of Social Work.

Q: But at Bryn Mawr, your activities?

SHURCLIFF: Well, I majored in psychology. I think I intended to major in economics, but that wasn't very well taught, so somehow I found myself in psychology. After I graduated from Bryn Mawr, I got a job at a settlement house.

Q: Before you did that, at school, were you engaged in any activities, the Student League for Industrial Democracy, for instance?

SHURCLIFF: I was in the International Club.

Q: Did you have anything to do with that summer school for workers in industry?

SHURCLIFF: No, I didn't. Every summer I spent in Ipswich, Mother had us teaching carpentry to the neighbors' children. I think I should tell you a little more about my mother.

Q: Please do.

SHURCLIFF: She wasn't just interested in civil liberties. She was a great bell ringer; did you know that?

Q: Well, I knew you must have inherited it from somewhere.

SHURCLIFF: And she was a tennis champion. She won tournaments at the Longwood Cricket Club. She set up a thing to make furniture and sell it. Her friends used to come there and they had a nice time making stools or something. I don't think she made the table.

Q: Oh, the stool behind the couch.

SHURCLIFF: Yes, it was called the peg legger. I couldn't quite see why Mother had so many what we would call losers in her carpentry, but then I found out that was her charity. She had some: there was Jimmy who went around tenement houses (she wanted him to get some useful skill); she had Mr. Henson who was a bell ringer because he had lost his job at General Electric. She really used this to help people in the nicest possible way.

Q: In a constructive way which would help them.

SHURCLIFF: She wouldn't tell them she was helping them, but she did.

Q: Not in the normal charity of giving them things, but in developing their skills. She seems like a very admirable person. I am interested in seeing that biography. By the way, I promise to return it. At Bryn Mawr you were not engaged in the normal things. We find that student activities open up to a student from that background possibilities of a trade union career. That didn't occur in your case.

SHURCLIFF: Well, I happened I had to work as hard as I could to get through Bryn Mawr, so I don't remember having much spare time.

Q: You did tell me once that you were a student of Esther Peterson's in those days when she was a gym teacher, but that it didn't influence you.

SHURCLIFF: Yes, and I have developed a lifelong dislike for her.

Q: You want that on the record?

SHURCLIFF: Yes, I do.

Q: That's interesting because all the other references to Esther are much more positive, but this was before Esther became active in trade unionism and things like that. It was, as she said, her husband who opened her up to all the good things that could be done. That is very interesting. Was the dislike based on something specific or just in general. Since you want it on the record, you should explain why.

SHURCLIFF: We didn't get along. I don't know what she did. Oh, I do know. She was no good at baseball, so we used to throw the hard ball at her very hard.

Q: That's how you reacted, but was it her teaching ability or---

SHURCLIFF: She thought we should all wear rompers, and she converted us all into rompers which we didn't like. I don't know why I should like her.

Q: Well, some things she did later; that's why I like her. In any event you were not engaged in student activities that would lead you toward labor interests. You chose social work.

SHURCLIFF: Yes, well I wanted to do good, you see. That was one of my ideas in life. I thought that if I worked at a settlement house, I would learn a lot, which I did. I taught carpentry there and I did typing. Halfway through the year I worked for the city union of settlement houses. The office was right in south end house in Boston, Union Park.

Q: You stayed there how long?

SHURCLIFF: One winter.

Q: Any work with trade unions or labor or just general social work?

SHURCLIFF: It wasn't in social work; it was teaching and typing. I realized that when you work in a place like that, you can learn a lot from just opening the door and seeing what is going on. So I did learn a lot.

Q: Could you put a time frame on this?

SHURCLIFF: 1938-39.

Q: It was after you got out of Bryn Mawr in the mid 30s.

SHURCLIFF: I realized that if I wanted to be a professional in that field, I would have to have a degree in social work, so I went to the New York School of Social Work. While I was there, I lived with my sister who had an apartment in New York.

Q: You got a degree?

SHURCLIFF: Yes I did. You see I started working for the G-2 just before I graduated.

Q: Before you graduated you started working for intelligence. The war had started?

SHURCLIFF: No, the war hadn't started yet, but I didn't know where I would get another such good job offer, and neither did the school. So they arranged that if I would write my papers, I could get the degree. It was May I think, when I started working for the military intelligence.

Q: Did they identify you as somebody or did you apply to them?

SHURCLIFF: My best friend was working there and they asked don't you know of somebody else. She said yes, so I came down for an interview. It was one of the few interviews where I did the right thing. The name of the man who interviewed me was Colonel Hurd. I said, "Are you by any chance related to the famous Hurds of Ipswich?" Well, he was.

Q: That settled it?

SHURCLIFF: No but we wondered afterwards why did they want to hire women. I think what they were trying to do is train what would be West Pointers. They were all very ladylike, the people they hired, and were given very important jobs. My first job was in charge of the whole British Empire. Of course they were hiring people pretty fast, so they broke up the empire into various sections. You know who Dean Rusk is? He worked in the British Empire branch. He was in charge of India and Burma and so forth. So, I gradually had to share my responsibility with these people.

Q: They made an affirmative effort to hire women.

SHURCLIFF: Yes, they didn't want men. As they said, men have got to get into uniform with a war coming, so we want women. Each part had a woman in charge, and the qualifications seemed to be that you had to have a master's degree. It didn't matter in what, and you had to be ladylike. I mean I don't remember any rough diamonds. There that is what I am trying to say.

Q: Yeah, they wanted women, but they didn't go out to the trade union movement to find them, so you fitted.

SHURCLIFF: I fitted in, and we all worked very hard. We weren't allowed to work all the time; you had to lock up everything when you left, and it was very carefully explained the day you arrived that no one ever made two mistakes on security because they got fired with the first.

Q: You were not fired.

SHURCLIFF: No, I was not.

Q: What about the security clearance in those days because security became a big problem in our group.

SHURCLIFF: I don't quite know. I guess it went through all right. I had trouble later on. When I was in the DFLC (The Division of Foreign Labor Certification provides policy guidance to carry out the responsibilities of the Secretary of Labor under the Immigration and Nationality Act concerning foreign workers seeking employment in the United States), I got one of these letters from the head of personnel in the Labor Department saying that it had been brought to their attention that I had an aunt who was a member of a number of subversive organizations, and so was my mother. They asked did I share her beliefs. At that time I thought well, I guess I had better deal with this properly the first time. I got a lawyer, and he said what you have to do is to write out everything about your whole family, every one of them. So I did.

Q: So this would have been when?

SHURCLIFF: The McCarthy period.

Q: Would it have been before we got to know each other in '57?

SHURCLIFF: Yes. So, I mean this thing we wrote up was thirty pages. It was very full. I found that Mother had belonged to one hundred different organizations of which only two or three were subversive in any sense, and she resigned from those almost immediately.

Q: If I give you two categories of people, the innocent liberal who may have joined a communist dominated organization without knowing it, or would she fall more closely into the category of the very informed liberal who could smell communist control of an organization.

SHURCLIFF: No, she couldn't smell anything, but if she went to a couple of meetings, she could notice it, so then she would resign.

Q: You see one of the problems we had in these loyalty things is that so many of the people who are charged with security problems in all innocence would not have noticed. They weren't so sensitive. I gather your mother falls in the other. She attended a meeting and would know what was going on.

SHURCLIFF: Yes.

Q: Well, that is very interesting. Go back to your G-2, how did you get from there into where we got to know each other?

SHURCLIFF: I stayed there almost two years. Finally there was nothing for me to do. I was working under this very---I don't know how to describe him. We called him Waterbug Smith. He was a colonel, but I think he was a sergeant from the reserves. He wanted to make general. He sat there and ordered us all around. We weren't supposed to speak to each other or do anything, so I finally managed to resign which wasn't easy in the war.

Q: By that time the war had begun. This would be about '42 or '43.

SHURCLIFF: Yes. You had to find a replacement. I would say to him, "A replacement to do what. I'm not doing anything." Anyhow he wouldn't compromise. So I decided just to resign. I forget just how I resigned. I had to fudge a bit on my resignation papers because I couldn't just say I was working for such a stupid man. Then I went to the State Department and landed a job there. Later I met Waterbug Smith in the street. He asked me what I was doing, so I told him. He said, "You know I am so dammed difficult to get along with." I said, "Yes, I agree." At State I went right into the office of foreign relief which, of course, was more up my alley. We were getting ready to set up UNRRA, the United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration.

Q: That would have been at the end of the war?

SHURCLIFF: No, much earlier.

Q: When La Guardia was in charge?

SHURCLIFF: No, before La Guardia. I forget. So in the State Department I wrote country studies. Then I went to Atlantic City to the conference of the United Nations where the rehabilitation administration was established. I was working in the secretariat there.

Q: The UN was not formed until '45.

SHURCLIFF: Yes, but this was formed much sooner.

Q: OK, even though it was called the UN---

SHURCLIFF: Well, it was not called the United Nations. You always have to go through the right thing.

Q: I see.

SHURCLIFF: So then when UNRRA was established, half the staff came from the office of foreign relief. We all transferred en masse. The British had a contingent from their relief department of their Board of Trade. It was originally just Americans and English. Then other people were hired as time went on. Anyhow, I wanted to go abroad. I felt there were not many attractive men in Washington. I think that was my main reason. There were 4-F's around, and I thought I would like to see some hale and hearty men for a change.

Q: Let's say that in addition to 4-F's there were people whose jobs were so important that they got deferments of some sort. You didn't run into one of those either.

SHURCLIFF: I looked around and thought what dismal prospects there are. One of my good friends was in Cairo, Egypt, and she seemed to be having a very good time. I felt I would like to go abroad, and I wangled a job in Cairo as a statistician. I didn't know much about statistics, but you don't need to, do you? So, when I got there they asked why are you a statistician, and I said I don't know, but I can do a lot of other things. They had an

intelligence branch and I went right to work in that. I liked it very much. At that time there was a glorious shortage of women in Cairo, but the American army was there. So was the British army and the South African Army, and there weren't any women with them.

So, for us females, life was great because you could have two dates a day. I used to work from 8:00 to 12:00 and from 4:00 to 8:00. Those were the office hours. You had one chance in the middle of the day and one chance in the evening. I lived in an apartment with two other girls, and we had two servants, so it wasn't typical. We'd give parties and all of that. I had a fine time, but you had to allow yourself certain evenings off from the social life, and that's what I did.

Q: The work was general intelligence.

SHURCLIFF: Yes. I knew how to do that having worked in the military intelligence. There were people from Force 133 who were integrated. They had been in Greece and Yugoslavia. Do you know about Force 133?

Q: No, but I can imagine it was sort of the underground.

SHURCLIFF: Yes. They used to be dropped in by airplane, and then they would have to find their way out, so it was quite exciting talking to those people.

Q: Then again, there was nothing about labor in this group. In other parts of Europe there were labor contingents that were dropped.

SHURCLIFF: There were none. There were people who had majored in Greek at college and who could speak classical Greek which of course isn't much use or help. They were the brightest and the best.

Q: You stayed in Cairo---

SHURCLIFF: I stayed in Cairo a little over a year. When I went to Cairo, I went in a convoy of one hundred ships, and ours was carrying high explosives.

Q: Which you knew at the time?

SHURCLIFF: Yes, I did. So, I scarcely dared breathe, but at any rate, we had the safest position in the convoy which is right in the middle. It took months to get there. When you went from Gibraltar, you would wonder where the German submarines were because it was a beautiful moonlit night. If you looked at the convoy we were stretched out fore and aft. You had to narrow the convoy to get through. Also there had been all sorts of Spanish boats in and out among us all day long, so that was very scary.

Q: Spain was neutral but pro-Nazi.

SHURCLIFF: Yes, that was very scary. Also in the Mediterranean, we had barrage balloon flying and an air escort all the way through. So, it was plenty exciting.

Q: Why did you leave Cairo and this wonderful assignment?

SHURCLIFF: The war wasn't quite over, but the first contingent of soldiers went to Greece just before Christmas, and with that civil war going on.

Q: Christmas '44, before the end of the war.

SHURCLIFF: Yeah. They had a horrid time there, by which I mean they got shot at, and they had to hole up in a hotel. I got there about the first of April. I remember being met at the airport in an armored car. I said, "Why an armored car?" They said, "All the tanks are busy, ma'am." Anyhow I liked working in Greece.

Q: Were you transferred directly from Cairo to Greece?

SHURCLIFF: Directly. The British were doing the relief work at that time, and we took over from them. I replaced a female British major who was very efficient and good, named Grizell Warner. I'll never forget that first name.

Q: Was it actually her name?

SHURCLIFF: Yes. I remember after we knew each other for a while, she said I think we can call each other by our first names. I didn't know how to say that. I didn't think I could call her Grisel very well, but I did. She was a major and there were two captains of us.

Q: What was your rank about this time; were you a clerk?

SHURCLIFF: No, I was about grade 11 or 12.

Q: Yes, a clerical grade. You didn't have a military rank.

SHURCLIFF: No, we were all civilians. Then she had to leave because she was pregnant, but it was all right because her husband was there. So, you see, there came this moment when the chief of mission asked me if I would replace her. I wasn't working in the food division to begin with, and I said I don't know anything about food. He said you have about three or four weeks to learn. So, I went in; the staff was Grizell and me and some Greeks. They had asked the British person, Eric Rountree, to come and head the food division, but he couldn't come for a few months, so I was it.

I never worked so hard in my life. We were feeding all eight million Greeks, and you had to order all the food and tell these ships which port to put in to. I think there were just three of them open. The rest had mines in them, so they couldn't use them. The British were sweeping the mines, so gradually there were more ports, but you never knew what was on the ship quite because of the Navy, of the admin types, of security reasons, so they _____ didn't tell you until it was just about there. Anyhow, you just did the best you could. Then you had to transship all the food from where ever it landed to all our ports. That meant you had to get your shipping estimates in and how much space you

needed. Then you had to get the food put on to those ships which wasn't easy, likely because the space was being black marketed. There was never room for the child feeding supplies until the nutritionists would go down to the port and tell them, "Put those things right on that ship." Then they would. I used to have to go down and flirt with Mr. Polydoro who used to handle the shipping section because if you didn't flirt with him, things wouldn't get on either.

Q: Well, I trust the price of that was not too great. You stayed in Greece for a couple of years.

SHURCLIFF: No a year and a quarter. Meanwhile I had been offered a very nice job in Washington as an assistant to Mr. Weintraub whom I had worked for before.

Q: Weintraub was---

SHURCLIFF: David Weintraub, did you know him?

Q: No, but I certainly have heard of him.

SHURCLIFF: By the time I got back I learned why: because he had been fired. It took me six weeks of sailing to get home. It was quite a trip.

Q: Even though the war was over.

SHURCLIFF: Yes, because they were sending home all the military on the airplanes, so you had to get a ship if you wanted to come home. So, I got one ship that took me to Italy. Then that ship decided not to go to the United States after all, so I had to get another ship to take me to the United States. It was a freighter and it kept stopping here and there, so it was a very long trip. Finally, we got to Philadelphia, and I went home for a few days. Then I went to Washington to find that Mr. Weintraub had been fired with no job for me there. He was with the United Nations at that time, so I was able to get a job in the United Nations. It was at Lake Success at the time.

Q: You mean in effect since he was fired, his whole staff---

SHURCLIFF: I just thought that seeing that he said he wanted me, he could come up with something I could do at the UN. And he did. It was a temporary three-month job which was extended into another temporary three-month job, but I didn't have enough to do in either place. It seemed sort of silly to drive out to Lake Success every day and not have anything to do. You get the picture. He asked why do you mind. You have a secretary, and your name is on the door. What more do you want?

Q: They didn't know Alice Shurcliff; that was their problem.

SHURCLIFF: By that time I had passed the civil service exam, and was able to go to the Labor Department in the division of foreign labor conditions.

Q: Now that was under Faith Williams?

SHURCLIFF: Yes. You know, when you are alone, it is quite wise to get jobs in agencies headed by women. You gradually learn that.

Q: Well, it comes a little easier. Some women discriminated against other women, but Faith did not. She was wonderful. She was in charge of the division of foreign labor conditions when it was really expanding, possibly because of her influence. I'd like to discuss that, what you were doing there, what she was doing, and---

SHURCLIFF: She was heading the division of foreign labor conditions which at the time---

Q: That is in the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

SHURCLIFF: In the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS), we all know that the Bureau of Labor Statistics was founded before the Department of Labor. We had a certain pride in that. Also the Bureau of Labor Statistics got out the cost-of-living index and all sorts of things. They were very useful. The division of foreign labor conditions was supposed to study labor abroad, so that the U.S. government would know what was going on. The American companies would also be able to know in case they wanted to set up a foreign arm or something. We got out something called Highlights every week, which was classified. We wrote labor briefs, one on each country. That was my idea, because there were so many students writing term papers. They would ask the Department of Labor to send everything you have got on labor in India. I thought there must be some simpler way. We weren't allowed to write them saying when I was in College, I did my homework; you do yours. That wasn't permitted, so---

Q: They did their homework. They wrote to you. So this country labor briefs you started.

SHURCLIFF: I think I started them. Then other agencies began to like them. AID (Agency for International Development) asked if we would write manuals for each of the countries they were in.

Q: That is for their missions abroad.

SHURCLIFF: Yes, and so we did.

Q: Could you put a time frame on this? You began working in BLS (Bureau of Labor Statistics) about late 40s?

SHURCLIFF: About 1949, and I stayed there quite a while.

Q: Well, you went to Japan.

SHURCLIFF: Oh dear. I forgot about Japan.

Q: This was before. From where did you go to Japan?

SHURCLIFF: From Greece I went to Japan. It was not directly. I had to find a job. You may wonder how I found all these jobs, but you see, Mother had a wonderful friend, Mrs. Winslow, and she had very handsome sons who used to spend all their vacations with us. One of them worked at the Department of Labor; that was Thatcher Winslow.

Q: Oh, I remember, yes.

SHURCLIFF: I knew him very well. So, when I wanted to go to Japan, I came down and spoke to Thatcher Winslow.

Q: What made you want---You had left Greece; you took this big ship home. You got a job with Weintraub at Lake Success. You didn't find anything to do there, and you quit.

SHURCLIFF: I have really forgotten the order but I have my curriculum. I wanted to go to Japan because we had a Naval _____ station there with an expert _____ there. _____ . He was a great expert on Far Eastern Art, and he told me, "Alice, if you don't go to Japan, you are missing the chance of a lifetime." I thought he was probably right, so I went to Thatcher Winslow who was working in the Navy Department---

Q: ---but not in BLS, he was in---

SHURCLIFF: He was working in the secretary's office. He said, "Well, we have a job for a manpower analyst to do manpower analyzing." I said, "Well, I am an analyst. I can analyze anything you have got." So, I was sent to Tokyo as a manpower analyst. When I got there, you know how it is when you go abroad, you find out that isn't really what they wanted. First I was put to work for Dick Deveraux. Did you know him?

Q: I certainly did. If you have anything you have to say about Dick I would love to have you put it on the record. If you do, there are so many blanks about his role from both the AFL (American Federation of Labor) side and from the government side.

SHURCLIFF: Dick was about to go to Korea with the trade union delegation. They said to me, you take over his work. So I went in and he said, "Alice, you just sit down and you do my work." I said, "I don't know what it is." He said, "Well, never mind," and off he went.

Q: What was your impression as to what he was doing?

SHURCLIFF: I didn't have time to get an impression. He had a male secretary. He and I soon came to a crossing of the paths because the secretary came in an hour or two late every morning. I finally said to him, "Steve, why do you come in so late?" He said, "Well, I was playing poker last night, and I won \$2,000. What were you doing?" I said, "You are employed to be here." He said, "I work twice as fast as anybody else. I don't have to be here."

Q: Was he a military?

SHURCLIFF: No, He was a civilian.

Q: A civilian War Department employee?

SHURCLIFF: Yes. As I was. He said, "I've got all the brains you have. I could have your job if I wanted. I just don't want it. How do you think Dick Deveraux employed me anyhow?" Well, it occurred to me that perhaps he was a homosexual. I didn't know. There was something odd about Steve, but you know when you are taking over for somebody, you don't fire their secretary while they are away, do you? Just a few days later, I mean a week or two later, General _____ walked into the room, and he said, "Where is Dick Deveraux?" I said, "In Korea."

Q: You had never met him before?

SHURCLIFF: No, I hadn't. He said, "Well, I was sent over to be his assistant." I said, "Well fine. Take the chair. Sit down. Make yourself at home." So there I was without any job at all.

Q: He was going to be Dick's assistant. You were going to be Dick's replacement.

SHURCLIFF: I don't know what I was going to be, but I wanted to get out of that situation, so I walked down the corridor to the manpower branch.

Q: Before we go into this, did you in subsequent periods find out anything about Dick Deveraux's work that you would like to indicate?

SHURCLIFF: Well, I think he could write very well. I forget how many books he produced, but let's say one every three months. He just couldn't get along with anybody.

Q: Except his secretary I suppose---or anything you know about his trade union work---

SHURCLIFF: No. I could tell you a lot about how he made everybody there mad at him. He propositioned the men in the labor division, and then he reported them as being communists or pinkos as they used to call them. So, the Army appointed a board of colonels to look into it all, and they decided there was no merit in what he said. When those men got back, they had a terrible time getting a job because it was in their record, you see. Worse than that, he went out on trips to the various military government headquarters, and he told everybody everywhere that the whole labor division was a bunch of incompetent pinkos. So, when you got out to make a field trip of some sort, you met with great hostility.

Q: Or suspicion.

SHURCLIFF: Well, both eventually. Jim Killian was the head of the labor department at that time, and he offered to resign because Jim Killian took such a dim view of him.

Q: Now here I'd like to ask you to comment on the fact that he had contacts with the AFL and Jim Killian came from the AFL.

SHURCLIFF: I didn't know that. I guess so.

Q: Oh, you didn't know that.

SHURCLIFF: I know that Jim Killian came from the trade union movement. Anyhow, at that time, Jim Killian crossed MacArthur in policy, and he was fired. Then Dick Deveraux came with Chet Heflaw, the new head of the labor division, and said, "Now I have nothing against you, or the law. I withdraw my resignation." Chet Heflaw said, "If I were you, I wouldn't do that, because if you do that I am going to fire you." So, he left. I should say that none of the problems left with Yosch. I have forgotten Yosch's last name. ___

_____ Dick Deveraux had hired him, and then when Yosch wouldn't cooperate, he tried to get Yosch fired. The head of the labor division didn't think that was fair.

Q: _____ by this time?

SHURCLIFF: I think do. So, Yosch came to work in the manpower branch. I don't think he had any particular qualifications, but the idea was to give him a chance to find another job in Japan, which he did. Then, back in Washington, Dick came into my office one day all cheery. So, I finally said to him, "Whatever happened to Yosch?" He said, "Oh, Yosch is fine. We are great friends now." Gosh, what a man. You know, all this talk about gays in the military, I have to think about Dick Deveraux because he really ruined a great many people's lives.

Q: Well, he did because of his improper activities as a homosexual. This doesn't mean that you couldn't have a competent or a---

SHURCLIFF: I realized that when I considered why people get upset about them. He was very nice to women. All of us women there kept saying that Dick Deveraux doesn't have a wife, a soul mate_____.

Q: What about his relations with the Catholic Church at that time? You don't remember.

SHURCLIFF: No, I don't remember.

Q: He was a very active Catholic.

SHURCLIFF: He was a very active person.

Q: Well, in the labor division, we are going to get a whole lot of stuff on that. Unfortunately, Jim Killian is no longer with us, but there was this whole business about why he was fired. You didn't follow that, or did you?

SHURCLIFF: Oh, I did. when I was there. You see, my best friend in Tokyo was the British Labor Attaché. He felt that it would be wrong for the British Government to test MacArthur's ruling. It would be better to reinterpret it, because that is what they always do

in England. That is what the British did do.

Q: There was the dispute about the organization of Japanese citizens.

SHURCLIFF: No, this was the dispute about whether government employees have the right to strike in Japan.

Q: Not to organize, I see.

SHURCLIFF: Jim Killian thought that they should have the right to organize, which is what they had done. MacArthur felt that they shouldn't organize. I don't know why. In Japan there are so many more government workers than around here. Hard to believe isn't it. Anyhow, they have all those government enterprises, and so if you denied those workers the right to organize, you'd be killing the trade union movement. So it was very important that they have the right to organize. Then you'd enforce some conciliation, mediation where you would settle disputes. I think that was what--

Q: Well, the people that remained had as their head supervisors such as yourself, who generally may have supported Killian's view. How did you accommodate your work to MacArthur's decisions? Like the British or---

SHURCLIFF: One of the first things you learn when you work abroad is that those who fight and run away live to fight another day. We decided that we would go along with the British Labor Attaché and reinterpret what MacArthur had said. That was done, and so all those workers were allowed to organize. We didn't feel that we had lost the battle. Actually, we won.

Q: Well, that is interesting, because Jim Killian who was one of the people in the labor field who came from the War Production Board as I did, as Irving Brown did, as Reuther did, Victor, and many other people, Dan _____, _____ Sakala. Jim Killian came back and put a spin on that, which was probably true that MacArthur was essentially against trade unionism in Japan. I never got the impression until this moment that the way you people got around it was through reinterpretation which is characteristic of the British in many other respects too. It is interesting.

SHURCLIFF: What you have to realize is that MacArthur knew a lot about labor. He wouldn't let his colonels and generals have anything to do with it. Jim Killian used to talk directly to MacArthur as did Hepler. Both of them said that MacArthur was extraordinarily well informed. Then, you know, there was this policy document that was agreed to, so MacArthur had to promote trade union organizations. If only he couldn't, his orders said he was to do that, and he realized that.

Q: He had some background that created a labor impulse because of his work during the bonus march and all that.

SHURCLIFF: I don't know, but he felt very strongly about this issue.

Q: In any event, what you are saying is that the function of the civil service is to do good by reinterpretation rather than confrontational attitudes.

SHURCLIFF: That's right, because there was no use trying to confront MacArthur.

Q: You worked with Hepler and Hoover.

SHURCLIFF: Not Wally and Collett.

Q: Collett. That is a new name for me.

SHURCLIFF: He became the head of the manpower branch after Hepler became head of the labor division.

Q: Does the name---a guy who became a businessman in Japan later, I forgot the name.

SHURCLIFF: Ted Cohen.

Q: Ted Cohen. Was he in that group?

SHURCLIFF: No. He had been head of the labor division, and he was in the United States when I came to Tokyo. He came back, and I forget what happened, but we took an instant dislike to each other. He was so sure that I was poor, and he asked me to find out what the percent of something was. I forget what it was, and I gave him a percentage. He said, "No, you've got it wrong. You have got the decimal point in the wrong place." I said, "I do?" He never forgave me. I was right.

Q: Well, you have got to worry about that.

SHURCLIFF: He didn't last long there.

Q: You stayed how long?

SHURCLIFF: I stayed two years.

Q: And then went to the DFLC I gather.

SHURCLIFF: I have forgotten.

Q: Yes, you certainly landed in the DFLC under Faith Hill Williams and began this long-term association with country studies etc. and stayed there. I came in '57.

SHURCLIFF: I kept taking other assignments.

Q: In the labor field for BLS?

SHURCLIFF: Well, no, not for BLS. When you came, I was abroad on a Rockefeller public

service award, and I spent six months in Southeast Asia. Then, after that, I took a job in Turkey for six months.

Q: But those jobs were on AID assignments or Labor Department leaves or what? What did you do?

SHURCLIFF: Well, in Turkey I was the manpower advisor to the State Planning Organization in Çukurova, that is in the southern part of Turkey, for six months.

Q: How did you get that, or was it the AID mission asked you to come or the Department of Labor sent you?

SHURCLIFF: No. I found there was a vacancy, so I wrote my friend Ed McRoy who was working in Turkey. I asked if they would they take a woman, because I didn't want to bother to apply if they wouldn't. He wrote back and said yes, so I applied and was accepted. I guess it hadn't been cleared with the chief of the mission because when he heard they had hired a woman, he said, "We don't want new Frances Perkins's around here. This is a Moslem country." So their cable came over "Discontinue with Shurcliff." So, I wrote Ed McRoy and said what happened? He told me, and then he went to the head of the State Planning Organization and said, "What would you think of having a woman?" The man said, "I don't know why we shouldn't; my wife is the town planner." The he went to the head of the Çukurova Region and said, "What would you think of having a woman?" He said, "I don't know why not; my wife runs the power plant here." Ed told that to the chief of mission. I guess they hadn't found anybody else, and then I was hired.

Q: But you went back to the Labor Department after this.

SHURCLIFF: I think so. I used to, you know. I didn't like doing the same thing too long, so I kept changing.

Q: But the point is in the current situation those things are not easy to arrange. As you know, I left and then came back to the Labor Department also, but in those days you were able to negotiate this.

SHURCLIFF: Well, I've always said, "Do you think they are going to take you back?" I said "I don't care. This is what I wish to do."

Q: Faith regarded that as good experience.

SHURCLIFF: No, I think she left before I did. She got cancer.

Q: Yes, I remember that. What was her husband's name? She was succeeded by---

SHURCLIFF: Oscar Wyget, and he was pretty awful. I think he was losing his brains.

Q: He certainly did later on.

SHURCLIFF: Well, I think it, had begun right then.

Q: Yes, she was succeeded by Oscar Wyget who was a German civil servant who was rather rigid as we remembered. I have not worked for him. I was very fond of him having seen him in Europe when he would go there. Then he was succeeded by Leonard Winsonmeyer.

SHURCLIFF: Yes, well, what happened was Leonard was hired to take over from Oscar. After Leonard had been there a few months, Oscar said, "I don't see why I have to resign." Leonard said, "If you don't, I'm going to." He got a job somewhere else. So that persuaded Oscar to retire.

Q: Well, yes. He had a conversation with Ewen Clay too who could never make a sharp demand for a resignation, but they got over that. Anyway, Leonard was a young, active person.

SHURCLIFF: But Leonard had begun doing all his work for him because he felt he could sit there forever. Oscar had already reached retirement age when he was appointed to the head of the DFCL.

Q: Yes, but there were problems he had. His wife was very active professionally.

SHURCLIFF: I don't know what they were, but I don't think it was right to give him that job. He annoyed me and a good many other people.

Q: A good many other people. Leonard was very nice.

SHURCLIFF: He was very sweet and nice.

Q: Also very competent. When I inherited his job when he moved upstairs, it was a very wonderful group that I found there including you. It turned out you were away.

SHURCLIFF: I was away when you came. I came back; there you were.

Q: You can make any negative comments you want about it.

SHURCLIFF: No, I always liked you.

Q: Yes, we got along fine. I don't remember whether you were working on country things. Oh no, it was someone else who worked on this, dealing with the foreign teams we scheduled.

SHURCLIFF: Yes, DFCL ran the training programs.

Q: But you were not involved with that except giving occasional briefings if you had some experience with the group. That's right. You did the research.

SHURCLIFF: I was in charge of a group of researchers.

Q: Including Bill Gerber?

SHURCLIFF: Yes,

Q: Then he succeeded you.

SHURCLIFF: I think so.

Q: Did you see Bill the other day? He was very nice to see, a sweet person. At any rate, I was there for a relatively brief period during the course of which I found competent people doing competent work competently. I didn't feel, except for a study I did in the manpower field, that I made any substantive contribution. I knew that there were problems with one person in the staff especially, a wonderful person, Tom Mosen. Did you have anything to do with him?

SHURCLIFF: Tom was a bell ringer. Did you know he used to ring bells during lunch hour?

Q: I didn't know that, but it didn't interfere with your work.

SHURCLIFF: He gradually became clearer and clearer. I've forgotten.

Q: He had a mental breakdown.

SHURCLIFF: He had a mental breakdown; he started having it right then.

Q: Yes, that is something I will have to deal with when I do my interview, my work in the BLS. It was a very sad story. He was so good in the work he did prior to this, but he became quite impossible to deal with. Well, you stayed at the BLS.

SHURCLIFF: Until after you left and took your secretary. Leonard had left and taken his secretary.

Q: I didn't take my secretary, did I?

SHURCLIFF: Yes, you did.

Q: No, Leonard took Joyce on.

SHURCLIFF: I don't know, but I was suddenly acting head of the DFCLC without a decent secretary.

Q: Alice, I am surprised. I want the record to show here that it was Leonard who took Joyce.

SHURCLIFF: I don't know who took Joyce, but anyhow she went.

Q: She is still working there.

SHURCLIFF: Yes, I saw her.

Q: Well, Shelton came in after a while, didn't he?

SHURCLIFF: Yes. I didn't like him very much.

Q: Well, he had a different type of orientation which was to the statistics end.

SHURCLIFF: Yes.

Q: He was a statistician in Paris, and I guess after experience with me, Mr. Clay decided that what he wanted was a person with more experience and more professionally qualified. There were other things you and Clay were interested in, comparative statistics and things like that. We, you and I both, were more interested in AID work, work related to AID, the country studies, that type of thing. So you succeeded as head of the division for a while.

SHURCLIFF: I was just acting, so after Bill Shelton came, I left.

Q: This would have been '59 or so, '60?

SHURCLIFF: I forget whether I left the whole Labor Department. I went and worked for Chuck Stuart for a year in the think tank.

Q: Yes. Did you do any international work there?

SHURCLIFF: Yes, I wrote something about trade unions. I probably have a copy of it here. I thought it was quite good, but nobody else seemed to think so.

Q: Chuck did.

SHURCLIFF: Did he? Well that makes two of us.

Q: He was such a quiet person. He never told anybody anything.

SHURCLIFF: Well, I felt it was sort of ridiculous to think that we could encourage trade unions in countries like Libya or Iraq, countries that had outright dictatorships. Whenever they got going, they'd be shut down.

Q: I'm going to want your opinions on that whole thing on the record shortly, but just to finish the flow of your job, you left the DFRC by resigning or by transfer?

SHURCLIFF: Transfer.

Q: Transfer to Chuck's staff. The staff was, as you said, a think tank. It is now ASPER, Assistant Secretary for Policy Review, etc. A very important function, and, as I recall,

Chuck thought of your work as being very good. I don't know about the specific ones.

SHURCLIFF: We got along very well. When we went to Paris, he would ask us around to supper, he and his wife. As I came in they said, "We don't know if you will like what we have." I said, "Just as long as it isn't baked beans, I'll like it." It wasn't baked beans.

Q: Boston baked beans? You came from Boston; why wouldn't you like that? This was years later when he was posted in Paris in the job that I had. You went from Chuck's staff where?

SHURCLIFF: I spent a year working on a skills set here in the District of Columbia for the British Unemployment Service.

Q: Another job you found on your own and transferred to?

SHURCLIFF: _____not necessarily_____ but, you know, people got the idea that I liked change which I did, and so I did that.

Q: And then back to international work where you did a number of trips abroad.

SHURCLIFF: I don't know. Somebody asked me if I would take a group of Turks around the United States, so I did that. I change jobs about every two years.

Q: When did you finally retire?

SHURCLIFF: I don't know how you define retire.

Q: When did you start getting your pension; let's put it that way?

SHURCLIFF: When I was 62 because I was such an idiot. I should have gotten it sooner and then I would be getting more. You keep getting these cost-of-living increases provided you take it young. Anyhow, then I went and worked for the ILO.

Q: That I didn't remember. In Geneva?

SHURCLIFF: No, I worked in Taiwan with Chet Hepler.

Q: On an island project.

SHURCLIFF: We were advising the Chinese Government on manpower, so I spent six months there.

Q: Yes, Chet was with the ILO by then.

SHURCLIFF: Yes, so he was able to arrange it. I had to say I worked at the ILO Manpower Seminar for a year.

Q: In Geneva?

SHURCLIFF: No, here.

Q: At the ILO office?

SHURCLIFF: No this was at the Labor Department.

Q: OK, you retired then when?

SHURCLIFF: About 1965.

Q: That early, '65.

SHURCLIFF: Yes, then I took two assignments with the ILO. I went to Taiwan and worked on manpower assessment for their state planning organization.

Q: With Hepler, I mean in connection with that.

SHURCLIFF: Hepler and I did this. Then I went to the Caribbean for a year or thirteen months for the ILO. I did manpower studies for each of the Windward and Leeward Islands that had belonged to England. Then I went to work for Education and World Affairs. They were writing a study of the brain drain worldwide. I worked there almost two years. We got out a study. We hired people to go to the various countries and see what was going on. We wrote a big thick book that was published. What we found was that it wasn't because of money they were leaving. It was because they didn't have enough to do in their field. I mean if you want a doctor to drive a taxicab, that is all right, but he might rather come here.

Q: That is the general feeling about so many of these places. India is a prime example. Doctors in India just find they can't do their work.

SHURCLIFF: Then I went and thought I'd retire and live in Boston, and Paul McEvoy was working at MIT.

Q: This is Ed McEvoy---

SHURCLIFF: No, this is Paul who is a well-known economist who worked later with (Alan) Greenspan.

Q: Oh, he is not related to Ed.

SHURCLIFF: No, just the same name. He asked me if I would write a study on what happens to little towns that get big nuclear power plants. You see there had been a desire on the part of the power companies to put in nuclear power plants, and McEvoy and I had worked on the project separately. I finally gave him what I had turned up. I thought if he was going to write an evaluation, he might as well have it. So a couple of years later he asked me to come to MIT and work on a project about what happens to little towns that get big nuclear power plants. So, I did. I wrote the study, and it was published, but it was a very

unhappy experience. He left MIT shortly after I began, and nobody in the energy lab had any interest in this. I was sitting in the energy lab. I couldn't even get things typed. They had a very reluctant typist. I finally said to her, "Why do you stay here?" She said, "Well, I majored in history in college; what am I supposed to do?" Take a civil service exam; join the State Department; do something you enjoy. You know, she was a lead balloon. Anyhow I got Tilly Sugg to help me with the study.

Q: Oh really? Tilly Sugg is an old employee of the DFLLC.

SHURCLIFF: They had built a big nuclear power plant where she lived, so together we wrote this study which MIT published.

Q: None of these post retirement assignments had anything to do with labor.

SHURCLIFF: Well, yes. I mean Taiwan.

Q: No, I mean the ones post Washington.

SHURCLIFF: No.

Q: Oh yes, the one in Taiwan certainly and the other work that you did (had nothing to do with labor).

SHURCLIFF: So, that I guess was the end. Then after that, I applied for a position on the town of Ipswich finance committee. In New England, every town has to have a finance committee, and I was appointed and worked for it for twelve years. When I retired, it was announced at the town meeting that I was retiring, and I got a standing ovation.

Q: That's good. At least you were appreciated. Was this volunteer work or salaried work?

SHURCLIFF: Not salaried. I didn't get paid. It is an official committee and at every town meeting, they have to take an official stand on every issue that comes up, money or not.

Q: That is interesting. Well, on the basis of all your experience, you have been to so many places and have done so many things. These enabled you to observe many things but there are two things I would like you to comment on. One is the work that the U.S. government does on our finances and its effects in the labor field generally. Secondly discuss the types of people we have doing it and which types, identified or not by name. Tell us which type you can expect the best type of contribution. Tell us what generalizations you would make about how people should be selected for the work, etc. So first on the substance of what we do. What is worthwhile and what is not?

SHURCLIFF: Well, I think the labor attaché program is worthwhile, but I thought it had many limitations. I never quite understood what ILAB was doing. That is the International Labor Affairs Bureau.

Q: This is in the Labor Department which is headed by a person that is an Assistant

Secretary or, for the last few years, Deputy Undersecretary. This is distinguished from the office in the State Department which is the focal point in State for the labor attaches. Are you saying there is duplication or you don't know what the function is?

SHURCLIFF: I just never figured out what they were doing. I went and worked there for a few months. When Jim Hoover went away I still didn't know when I was through. Mostly, we spent a lot of time writing progress reports. If I had lunch I would say Liaison with Maury Weiss. That is how they did it.

Q: Am I to understand that you don't see a separate function for the Labor Department?

SHURCLIFF: I don't see it.

Q: Let me put it to you, without arguing the other side because I don't know where I stand on it, that there might be a function of identifying the things in the domestic area in the Labor Department that impact on or need some input from labor attaches. I just point out to you for instance that HHS (Health and Human Services Department) puts out a long yearly report on comparative social security legislation all over there world. This is a function they perform because it is necessary for certain policy decisions. There is a staff at HHS which pushes the labor attaché to get that information into his reports. There is a function therefore at HHS, an international function. Is there a corresponding one in the Labor Department?

SHURCLIFF: I can only tell you when I was there, I didn't think so. I suppose I can think of some things they do that the DFCLC couldn't do, but I just felt that the people in ILAB were not very competent, not hard working. I'm sure I am wrong, but that is how I feel.

Q: I am not sure you are wrong. On the basis of my observations which will be in my interview, I find a competence and an incompetence, appropriate function and non-function, but I will discuss that at length. Let's just draw you out on this: we have a function in the Labor Department of labor relations. Now the new Secretary is trying to change it so that it does a little bit more in the field. DFCLC does not do it. Should it or should ILAB do the work involved in looking into the relevance of our experience and the irrelevance of our experience in labor management affairs abroad. Who should do that?

SHURCLIFF: I don't know.

Q: But you said you didn't see anything the DFCLC couldn't do.

SHURCLIFF: I just had the feeling when I was working in ILAB for three months that I didn't detect a function there.

Q: OK, now about the labor attaches whose work you observed and AID labor people and information people, do you have any observations on the types there?

SHURCLIFF: I wrote up something here which says I think it very important to send abroad favorable representatives of the USA. They should be friendly individuals with above

average intelligence, above average curiosity, and good manners. We must never appoint people we wish to get rid of be they difficult, impatient, stupid or not protection oriented. Unfortunately one meets a fair number of these in embassies. They do more harm than good.

Q: Do you have any comment on the types of backgrounds that are better than others?

SHURCLIFF: No, I don't think it has much to do with background. I think it has to do with personality.

Q: What about the quality of experience that they might have had that might be relevant to another country's work? For instance, many of them come out of the trade union movement. The quality of their experience as trade union organizers can either inhibit their effectiveness abroad under certain circumstances or enhance it. Is it a personality thing that makes that enhancement or inhibition factor important, or is it the fact that they have actually been involved in telling people the value of trade unionism and illustrating that from their own experience?

SHURCLIFF: Well, I have nothing against people from the trade union movement.

Q: Did you know any people who were very successful or unsuccessful in that respect considering their background or is it only competence or as you put it their good manners, etc.?

SHURCLIFF: Well, I think it would help to know something about labor. One of the best labor attaches I met was the British one in Tokyo. He worked in the labor department in England all his life. I thought he was splendid.

Q: OK, let me say there is a tendency in the British labor department to assign people from the Ministry of Labor. In a few cases someone is appointed with a trade union background, but essentially the nominee is from the ministry of labor. Is that the best source for U.S. labor attaches?

SHURCLIFF: I don't know. I remember Ganz Wilson told me that during WWI he fought in the war in Greece and then he joined the Labor Department here. He always worked in the manpower field. He could never work in London because he wasn't the right type. He hadn't been to college. He didn't know how to behave among those people, so he just stuck to the outer places.

Q: He was a British employee in Greece?

SHURCLIFF: No, a British soldier. When he came to Japan, he didn't get along with the embassy people, his own embassy people, so we gave him a desk in our office.

Q: That is very interesting.

SHURCLIFF: So when they asked him if he had seen this or that in the newspaper, he used

to say to them, "I don't get my information from the newspaper. I go out and see these thing." We should be going now.

Q: Yes, we should be getting along now. Let me just say two other things. One is how grateful I am because yours is a unique type of experience, and, second, I want to raise the question with you about what you do with all the material? We may within a few months have the possibility of some storage facilities available for any material that you wouldn't know what to do with.

SHURCLIFF: I think I know what to do with it.

Q: Okay, thank you.

End of interview