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Title: Donald K. Tamaki Interview
Narrator: Donald K. Tamaki
Interviewer: Naoko Wake
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NW: Well, I'm coming up with more questions, but let me ask just one more question.

DT: Uh-huh.

NW: So, um, you were born in 1951, so I guess by the time you went to university you probably didn't experience the Berkeley campus to experience the, uh, the Third War Strike in 1968, 69. Um, do you see—do you think that you yourself growing up as a Japanese American person, um, in the sixties and seventies, and going through the era that you did, influenced your interest in . . . ?

DT: Oh, there's no doubt about it.

NW: Yes.

DT: I mean, the . . . well, put it this way. Without the African American Civil Rights Movement I would not have been a lawyer. I mean, Martin Luther King, to me, is a huge hero.

NW: Mhm.

DT: And uh, you know, one of these, these kinds of people come along once every hundreds, couple hundred years. And so . . . he opened, and other people, you know, changed the whole landscape completely. And uh, and then from there, there were just these offshoots. Like Asian American Studies at UT, it's had a huge impact on America, but in particular Asian Americans. And they all go on to different, people all go on to different careers.

NW: Mhm.

DT: Um . . . but in terms of diversity and attitude and tolerance and cultural lessons learned, Asian American Studies has huge impact. And so, um, we are, I know there's less and less funding coming from the state to support.

NW: Very true.

DT: Like the one at Berkeley—UC-Berkeley. And so they're doing their own private fundraising and we're donors to that. Because it's been so impactful.

NW: Right. Right.

DT: So, yeah. I mean, it's shaped all of our careers, our thinking, what we got involved in. Yeah, that whole, I feel so fortunate to have been born during that time. To be alive during that time. So.

NW: Right. Right.

DT: Yeah.

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