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Title: Keiko Shinmoto Interview  
Narrator: Keiko Shinmoto  
Interviewer: Naoko Wake  
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**<Begin Segment 10>**

NW: So, at that time, did your husband tell you about his family experience of being in internment? How did it come out?

KS: Yeah, not too much. No too much. All he said, of course, he was young. So [he said] “Oh we all had a good time.” What I mean is that’s . . . “we didn’t have to worry about food, living space, because it’s not a big house we called it a barrack. But everyday we have just . . . played baseball, and had a lunch, um, meal was free” [laugh]. Something like that he used to tell me.

NW: Uh-huh. But by, I don’t know, probably 1960s probably too early, but you’re probably familiar with how, in late 1960s and ‘70s there are Asian Americans who started to just notice that, oh wow, there is a concentration camp and that was not a right thing to do. American government shouldn’t have done it. You must have heard about such a, a sort of a rise of social movement.

KS: Yeah. That’s I guess the JALC? That’s the one, I guess, official people, looking for that. Yeah, so that’s good, yeah. And really it isn’t right. To put in barbed wire inside.

NW: Right, right. Well, what did you talk about that? He is the person who had been through it.

KS: I don’t, . . . I wasn’t there anyway, so that’s why I don’t want to say that’s why, when it is in the conversation that I just listen-side. I just listen, that’s all.

NW: What did you hear then? What did your husband tell you or what did you hear from other people?

KS: Oh, he is, of course, more like, um, what am I gonna say? They took away their freedom, right? Just limited lifestyle, that’s all, right? And they took all of their property before they go to the camp. That’s the kind I heard about it. And gees, that’s not right. That’s what I thought. Yeah.

NW: Do you think it might have in any way changed your view of America? Because earlier you came here very excited, you were coming to college, and you were excited about new life experiences, but then you learn about this thing that was not right done by the US government and your husband, and his family also went through it, and I’m sure his family lost their belongings and property and stuff, as well. Do you think it might have changed your view of America, what you think about America as a country?

KS: Well, to me, no, no, I am still today, I am the luckiest one, I think. Because I went through the A-bomb. We lost everything. Compare that. I am lucky, I am, today, I am here. Yeah, I never . . . To me, I didn't go through that camp. That hardship. I don't remember my age at that time. What I mean is, the camp is 19 . . . what?

NW: '41, and '42 . . .

KS: I don't remember. But today, oh, if I think about it, that wasn't right. Yeah.

NW: So, in other words, you didn't particularly feel that, oh, my view of America has changed because of that, now that you know about . . .

KS: Of course, that's, we are Japanese. But we are also American, too, I got American citizenship, too.

NW: When did you get it?

KS: Gosh, that's 19 . . . I got married and after that. Roger, Kevin, they are elementary school. And because [when] anything comes to school, you have to record, father, American citizen, mother, Japanese. I don't like that, either, you know. And kids said, why don't you mama be American, too. And when we go trip, if I go to Canada, or Mexico, I am the one on a separate line. I hate that, too. So.

NW: Right, uh-huh.

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