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Title: Matsuko Hayashi Interview
Narrator: Matsuko Hayashi
Interviewer: Naoko Wake
Location: San Jose, California
Date: June 3, 2012
Densho ID: ddr-densho-1021-4-14

<Begin Segment 14>

NW: So, so, what was uh—you said 1947 you came back to the States after the war?

MH: Mhm.

NW: Okay.

MH: One of the, uh, second—second boat that came that brought the Niseis.

NW: Mm. Mhm. Mhm . . . Now, um, I understand that, you know, your—you, you yourself is American citizen.

MH: Mhm.

NW: You were born in the States . . .

MH: Mhm.

NW: . . . but then you happened to be in the way, in Japan . . .

MH: Dual . . . yeah dual citi—citizen.

NW: Right. Well how . . . how did you feel about, at that time, how did you feel about your home country using the bomb against people like yourself?

MH: Well . . . that's a different story. Religion-wise . . . cause and effect, everything happened. And . . . cause and effect, that's natural. Whatever you do, it always come back to you.

NW: Mhm.

MH: And . . . oh, and I forgot to tell you, I—I got *shinjin* in Japan when I was, uh, seventeen.

NW: Okay.

MH: And . . . and so, when I—when the A-bomb came, it didn't surprise me at all.

NW: Mm. Why is that?

MH: 'Cause anything would happen. Buddhism say anything would happen, you know. You don't know when, but . . . So I, I think that's what—The thing that's supposed to happen is happening now.

NW: Hmm. But why, why did you think that it was supposed to happen?

MH: 'Cause, it, there—cause and effect. There's always a reason to start.

NW: So what would have been the reason or cause of the bomb?

MH: Well, you can't . . . ev—everybody think they're right. And, um, A-bomb?

NW: Yeah.

MH: There's nothing you could do. I mean, it's— it's a big part and everybody . . . You can't blame America or Japan.

NW: Uh-huh.

MH: They're, they're at war, and . . . War.

NW: Mhm.

MH: They'd do—Anything goes.

NW: Mhm. Mhm.

MH: Whoever is stronger wins.

NW: Mhm. Mhm. So you just think that that's just . . .

MH: Yeah.

NW: . . . something that happens in the war.

MH: Uh-huh.

NW: Yeah.

MH: Whatever.

NW: Yeah. So during the wartime, um, being in Japan, did you feel like people . . .

MH: Yeah.

NW: . . . had a sort of perspective on you, because you were from America?

MH: Yeah . . . um they think . . . um, yeah.

NW: Yeah.

MH: They always used to criticize us, and . . .

NW: Mhm. What did they say?

MH: Well, I don't know. And they say spy and things like that.

NW: Ah.

MH: You know, people are—people are so narrow-minded. They could see in their self . . .

NW: Mm. Mhm.

MH: So.

NW: How about school-teachers? Did they treat you differently?

MH: No . . . school-teachers fine.

NW: They're fine.

MH: Yeah.

NW: Mhm. But school kids, your . . .

MH: Yeah.

NW: . . . school mates.

MH: They—they're some mean ones too.

NW: Mhm. Do you remember anything in particular?

MH: Huh?

NW: Do remember anything in particular? Somebody who was particularly mean, or said something?

MH: No. It's normal for kids to be like that.

NW: Mm . . . But do you have any particular memory or instance or anything?

MH: No.

NW: Mm.

MH: That's—That's life.

NW: Mhm.

MH: For me.

NW: Mmm.

<End Segment 14> - Copyright © 2012 Densho and Naoko Wake. All Rights Reserved.