Densho Digital Repository Naoko Wake Collection of Oral Histories of US Survivors of the Atomic Bombs Collection Title: Junji Sarashina Interview Narrator: Junji Sarashina Interviewer: Naoko Wake Location: San Jose, California Date: June 6, 2012 Densho ID: ddr-densho-1021-5-24

<Begin Segment 24>

NW: How do you feel about Korean survivors? I ask you this because they, in a way, are very similar to American survivors because they are also, you know.

JS: Yes, exactly the same. Exactly the same.

NW: Do you feel sympathetic to them?

JS: Oh yeah. They were forced in a way to come to Mitsubishi in Hiroshima to do the work. I said forced, I don't know if it was forced or not. Maybe they were trying to find a work, maybe they trying to find a good paying work in Mitsubishi. But they were.

NW: It wasn't a good pay, but anyway.

JS: Is that so? [laugh] Okay, you know about it. Anyway, that's how they came. They were mistreated, and they worked hard, maybe they did not get paid. And then, boom, you know.

NW: So, how do you feel about, I guess I ask you because, among other things, they are after compensations. They are, they like to have medical checkup system just like the system that you have here, but, and then they have this, you know, going back to Japan kind of medical support, intensive medical treatment system as well. Well, but they are also asking for, not all of them but many of them are asking monetary compensations from the Japanese government. And they do it through the window of lawsuits, bringing the lawsuits against Japanese government.

JS: They are getting it.

NW: Yeah.

JS: I'm helping the survivors here, too. I think I helped close to 100 people already. It's almost like my full time job. For the lawyers and the *chihō saibansho*, Hiroshima-ken. All the paperwork, I prepare it.

NW: So, do you work, I guess you, you don't directly work with Korean survivors group, but . . .

JS: No, no, no. But even though I have Korean survivor here; I took care of her paper. She, she's got the compensation, compensated for. And she comes, "Junji! Thank you!" She called me. She speaks mostly, a little bit of English, let's put it that way. But yes, I have worked with Koreans.

NW: Are there other Korean American survivors that you got to know through [ASA]? She is the only one?

JS: No, she is from, only one from Korea.

NW: Hmm, okay.

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