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Title: Junji Sarashina Interview  
Narrator: Junji Sarashina  
Interviewer: Naoko Wake  
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**<Begin Segment 26>**

NW: Now, more specifically, through your, you know, activism through this organization of US survivors, do you feel like you met with new people? I'm asking you this because I know, for instance, in the 1970s when the group of survivors here was working to get support by the US government, there are some young generation Japanese Americans, lawyers, or you know, medical doctors, who were, you know, very becoming politically aware. And they wanted to kind of increase the voice of Asian Americans, not just Japanese Americans, you know, other Korean Americans and Filipino Americans and so forth, coming together and try to raise a voice about their concerns about American minorities, and then, I wonder if you had a chance to work with the younger generation of . . .

JS: Not so far, I have had any chance to work with any so-called lawyer or professional type of people. In fact, it's almost impossible to get the second generation to help us.

NW: Why is that?

JS: Hmm. Maybe it's our fault that we haven't told those people. That we have a situation like this, and it's a very small group of people. And they are mostly housewives, the A-bomb survivors; they are not spokesmen. If there is some person like me, they are, you know, 80 years old, 83 years old, and they are old men, old ladies. So, that's one reason it's not exposed that much. And by helping the A-bomb survivors, as a lawyer, what's the reward?

NW: I guess earlier, in the 1970s, there were some lawyers who were in younger generation, Japanese American lawyers who worked for CABS [Committee of Atomic Bomb Survivors in the United States of America], for instance. But I guess, in your generation, you said you became active, probably in the 1980s? For . . .

JS: Yeah.

NW: So probably by then, there was no, not much of collaboration between generations.

JS: There was no organization, as I told you earlier. It was not an organization. It was there, okay, let's get together, have a meeting. Even today, it's my fault, too, but it's not much of an organization. So among small A-bomb groups, we don't like each other. That's a typical Japanese. [laugh]

NW: [laugh] Internal conflict.

JS: Instead of working together and making it comfortable . . . but . . .

NW: But also, it's an irony because . . .

JS: But we have Republican doctor, and Republican and Democrat are totally different ways of thinking. One is deserving, one, like this one, one is deserving like, we were originally one, but we got separated. We started ASA; from ASA, this group started here. And one of the guys started here, he came back, came from San Francisco. And he is the one . . .

NW: Kuramoto-san? Tomosawa?

JS: Tomosawa, right. He's the one. Now he wants the government to pay them some money, wants, at that time, they were having trouble here. At the CABS, and Kuramoto-san had to resign. One of the members over there was Tomosawa, so he decided, well, we'll get some people from ASA; we'll organize one in Santa Monica. So this is how he is right now. I know his brother, we served together in Korea. So I know his brother personally. But I don't want to associate with that person whatsoever because I know him. I think I have 1001 other [?] friends which I would associate, but. That's the way he is, so. My personal feelings.

NW: I understand.

JS: It's up to you to make that decision. But any organization who change its bylaws two weeks before we get there, I can't. Yeah. You are not a member, what, are you trying to help me? I'm trying to help, but you're not a member. So I cannot vote? No, you can't vote because you didn't pay your membership. Membership has been collected whenever they had an examination. That was not, but you didn't pay it this time, so, Junji-san. I said, "Holy cow, this is baloney." Anybody can do that, is, is, who can change the bylaws. [laugh]. So, you know, that's your problem.

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