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Title: Junji Sarashina Interview
Narrator: Junji Sarashina
Interviewer: Naoko Wake
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<Begin Segment 28>

NW: How about, I said that was the last question, but this is the real last question, which is really a technical question. So, the medical check up, is that 100% paid by *kōsei-shō*, Japanese government now? Or is this also funded by Hiroshima Prefectural Medical Society?

JS: I am not too sure, but as far as I'm concerned, *kōsei-shō* carries the dollars, okay? Money. But Hiroshima Ishikai, those are *inin*. *Inin*, or is that what you call it, *inin*?

NW: Yeah, well, *itaku*?

JS: *Itaku*, okay, okay. And it's up to the Hiroshima Medical Association, which is connected to HICARE to conduct that type of examination.

NW: So actual operation of the program is done by Hiroshima doctors?

JS: Yeah.

NW: Yeah, got it. So, *kōsei-shō* pays money, but they don't get involved directly with the program, actual operation of the program. Am I right?

JS: No, they don't get that involved. But, about, until about three, maybe eight years ago, there was a representatives of *kōsei-shō* together with those doctors. Then, you know it gets a little bit more technical, the HICARE people, that's what they get all the money from Hiroshima-shi and -ken doctors, a lot of that members come to see us, and the ABCC, like the one I mentioned, they are changing the name, to *Hōsha ken* something, they are also part of the examination, a vital part. In their case, they have stat, statistically they're collecting information. But, they're doctors, medical doctors, and they come, too. So a lot of expenses must be coming out of their side, too. I don't think it's 100% *kōsei-shō*. They all work together. And, it's a pretty big expense. I am sure that they get a lot of donations from, you know, media people, just like the way we get donations. So, that's. So like you said, you know, do you want to establish a hospital here, it is not fair to ask a person like me, because I speak English, and I can go to any doctors, you know what I mean, it doesn't have to be a Japanese doctor, it doesn't have to be an English doctor, it could be any doctor. And, PPO, or Medicare, depends on the person, see. PPO, like us, I can pick up any nice looking doctor and go there. And I don't have to go to a male doctor because the insurance covers it. But when you are in the certain type of insurance, you're limited, and then if you're on the lowest one, CAL8, then it's tricky to go to only one [?] . . . that kind of place.

NW: That is difficult.

JS: So, it's all different cases.

NW: Yeah, yeah. I see what you mean, but, I mean, I was just curious about your opinions.

JS: And now, if I am going to see the doctors, one or two doctors, one or two patients, or let's say, we have two hundred-something in our organization. And another group might have a hundred or so. You establish an office somewhere, how many people are going to see a doctor? One a week?

NW: [laugh] Probably not that many.

JS: Two a week? Because the one with the HMO, they can't jump, they have to be on a one doctor, assigned doctor. I can go to . . . it's not like me. So the insurance [they] got, started to get very tough.

NW: Right, right, especially here, in the United States.

JS: In the United States. In Brazil it might work, because I've been to Brazil, too, but. Yeah. They are all . . . they are in countryside. You see tall, beautiful buildings, but you get close by, windows are cracked, air conditioning is like this, diapers hanging from the windows. It's not a like the United States, they don't have a dryer there. So.

NW: Well, thank you very much, Junji-san. You know, I feel like I probably wanted to talk to you even longer because I think you have such a rich story. So is that okay with you if I call you sometime?

JS: Anytime, call me. I am willing to help you. But you have to tell this to your students that, explain it to them, that A-bomb survivors are here and how they are making their living, how they are doing. And without nuclear weapon. We have to live in peace, peace is what man [?], no nuclear war. Even though I was involved with *Taiheiyō sensō*, Korean war, Vietnam war, and all kinds of things, yeah? But some time, somewhere, some politician will learn. The nuclear bombs are not the answer. So, the students understand that or hear about it.

NW: I will do my best.

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