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Title: Thomas T. Noguchi Interview
Narrator: Thomas T. Noguchi
Interviewer: Naoko Wake
Location: Los Angeles, California
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<Begin Segment 5>

NW: Now, going back to Kenji Ito that you mentioned, that particularly helped you out. Was he a Sansei as well? Was he young when you met him?

TN: Uh . . . the last time I saw him was 19 . . . Uh . . .

NW: So, so was—I—you told me that you had some people from JACL to help out your election to be placed in the position, which is great. And I'm wondering if those people are mostly, you know, people from Japan, or people who were younger and part of the uh, you know, younger Asian Americans who were in college and universities, maybe recent graduates, and trying to, sort of, improve their communities. I'm just trying to get the sense of how old people might have been at that time?

[Mrs. Noguchi is speaking in the background]

TN: Yeah. I uh . . . they're all Asians. Kenji Ito at that time perhaps, uh . . . mid 50s.

NW: Mid 50s? Okay.

TN: 1970 . . . No, no, no. Might even be sixty when I saw him. 1990 he was ninety-two. So he may be uh, easily, sixty when he helped us.

NW: I see.

TN: Very powerful. Very quiet. But a doer. He had contacts with all the societies of people directly. And I have my lawyer who also find these Japanese leaders sent here. And uh, very—he took it probably they had not ever have acted . . . this way before. Because the cause there's one individual seems to be discriminated. That's the main thing that Tom Noguchi told everyone all gather outside the building.

NW: I see.

[Mrs. Noguchi is speaking in the background]

TN: I uh . . . the chamber of commerce people are businessmen. Much older people.

NW: Mhm.

TN: He uh . . . said things that were mid thirty. Mr. Matsui was then uh . . . chapter director. I think he was at the headquarters in Los Angeles probably. And uh . . . eventually came around. He was a big conservative.

NW: Mhm.

TN: But uh . . . once the chamber of commerce people started taking an active role, they came along.

NW: I see.

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