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Title: Thomas T. Noguchi Interview
Narrator: Thomas T. Noguchi
Interviewer: Naoko Wake
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<Begin Segment 8>

NW: So, um . . . Let me—let me back up a little bit. You mentioned earlier this public hearing where a large number of people came to listen to survivors' experiences. And when I talked to Kaz Suyeishi a couple years ago, she told me that she asked JACL to mobilize its members so that there would be a lot of people who come to, as an audience, to the public hearing. Were you there for that hearing?

TN: Oh yes. Oh yes.

NW: Could you please tell me a little more specifically about what happened and who said what and things like that?

TN: Uh . . . I think about 80 or so members in, reside around Los Angeles, San Diego, and the area. Not all came, but a majority of the survivors actually attended. Uh . . . how transportation arranged? Uh, the atomic bomb survivor's group must have arranged that and who selected them, perhaps instead of me, taking leadership, I think Mr. Suyeishi may have selected the speakers. And how it feels so far? What are the problems? They were just fine before the . . . I think he could be Senator Mark [?] Dymally. Anyway. Three, four hours of a long testimony. In the audience there was seating for 800. Uh . . . probably at least 300 people were in that room.

NW: Uh-huh.

TN: I . . . I don't remember individual contents of the speeches. There were so many. And all coming from their heart. And uh . . . really shows . . . and of course a public hearing has another aspect; there was full television coverage. And public education channels that were running and through several lengths and the recording. In those days, 1970s, you might not even believe, but videotaping was not available so they all . . . depended on actual sixteen millimeter film. But uh . . . locally, well-publicized. I did not hear any opposition. Nobody acting against Japan or Japanese.

NW: Mhm. Mhm. What um . . . Let me see. So . . . what do you think that you took away from your working with U.S. survivors? I ask you this because it's obviously clear that, you know, U.S. survivors benefited much from your assistance. I wonder if you felt a certain kind of gratification for yourself by working with survivors?

TN: I ask no favors. I ask no support. And uh . . . need, I am here to help. I do not need a recognition. I do the same way on many, many projects that I'm involved. Uh . . . I don't need

recognition. Not anything. I'm not too eager to be, to uh . . . I'm not seeking for any recognition myself.

NW: Uh-huh. But I guess what I'm asking is not just recognition. But sometimes by helping out other people in need, you just get a sense of happiness or gratification for yourself. So I don't mean recognition but what would be the good thing that you took away from your collaboration with survivors?

TN: Yeah. I . . . That's one of the several projects that we were doing. Uh . . . at the same time, many of the times my son was spending meetings, many meetings out from the weekend. Yes, professional satisfaction is uh . . . yeah, administered the same way. And they're helping people. And uh . . . their job to do so.

NW: Mhm.

TN: And naturally, he will do it. If I can do it, I will do it. If I cannot, I will find someone who can do it.

NW: Uh-huh.

TN: Got done nice and easy.

NW: Uh-huh.

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