

Jay Reed interviewing Charles Word clip 2
Topic: Employment/Racial Climate in Newark

[Charles Word discussing how he got his job at FMC.]

Charles Word: Well that's another story. Be patient with me, and I know you are, but you have to remember now that you're talking to a person from back at a certain time. Okay, I remember them when I was at Newark, I saw them building that place and I don't know it just stuck in my mind, and when I got out of baseball I applied. And they told me "We don't hire Negroes here."

Interviewer: Oh wow.

Charles Word: And you know, it was truly unlike me to take the issue any further, because that was the real truth why I wasn't in pro ball—if I'd'a pushed the issue—Pittsburgh came to Church Street to get me after I was released from Houston but I just didn't have it, the desire. But anyway, so it was unlike me, two weeks later I went back there and that same lady, I never forget her because eventually I worked with her, her name was Irmgard she said "You was in here, I told you we don't hire Negroes here." But there was a guy named Jack Menersh (?) who standing listening this time. He said "Come here" as I was leaving, he said "She doesn't know what she's talking about," he said. "Listen, our home office is in a place called Marcus Hook," and I'll never forget Jack, he said, "and there's plenty of Black people working up there." He said "Go up there," he said, "I'm'a give you the number" he said. "You call and you go up there" and I went to Marcus Hook and I met the person that he told me and he hired me. And that's how I got at FMC.