

Finding Aid to The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Bernard Kinsey

Overview of the Collection

Repository:	The HistoryMakers®1900 S. Michigan Avenue Chicago, Illinois 60616 info@thehistorymakers.com www.thehistorymakers.com
Creator:	Kinsey, Bernard, 1943--
Title:	The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with Bernard Kinsey,
Dates:	July 28, 2001
Bulk Dates:	2001
Physical Description:	7 Betacame SP videocassettes (3:30:27).
Abstract:	Management consulting chief executive Bernard Kinsey (1943 -) is an expert in urban revitalization and economic development. In 1992, Kinsey became the Chief Operating Officer and co-Chairman of Rebuild Los Angeles (RLA), under Peter Ueberroth. RLA's mission was to bring jobs, economic opportunities and pride to the area that had been devastated by the 1992 Los Angeles riots. Kinsey was also vice president of Xerox Corporation and president of KBK Enterprises, a management consulting firm. Kinsey was interviewed by The HistoryMakers® on July 28, 2001, in Pacific Palisades, California. This collection is comprised of the original video footage of the interview.
Identification:	A2001_037
Language:	The interview and records are in English.

Biographical Note by The HistoryMakers®

Bernard Kinsey was born on September 20, 1943 in West Palm Beach, Florida. Following in his family's tradition, he attended Florida A&M University. There, he met his wife Shirley. After graduating from Florida A&M University in 1967, he was hired as the first African American sales representative for Humble Oil Company, then a part of the Exxon Corporation. The job brought Kinsey and his wife to South Central Los Angeles. Kinsey was immediately successful and quickly became Humble Oil's number one sales representative.

In 1971, Kinsey left Humble Oil to join Xerox Corporation as a field service manager. Again, he proved to be highly successful and within his first nine months rose to number one. During that same year, Kinsey and a group of African American Xerox employees protested the promotion of a less qualified white employee over an African American with supervisory experience and a college degree. Xerox promoted the African American employee. This action resulted in the creation of the Xerox Black Employees Organization, which Kinsey co-founded.

Kinsey became a vice president of Xerox within ten years. He holds the distinction of achieving number one status nationally in every sales and marketing position he held from 1968 to 1984. Kinsey also worked to create a program for bringing African Americans and other minorities into the company and training them for jobs with opportunities for advancement.

In 1991, Kinsey left Xerox and in 1992, he became the chief operating officer and co-chairman of Rebuild Los Angeles (RLA), under Peter Ueberroth. RLA's mission was to bring jobs, economic opportunities and pride to the area that had been devastated by the 1992 Los Angeles riots. While leading the revitalization efforts, Kinsey succeeded in generating more than \$380 million dollars in investments for inner city Los Angeles. Kinsey also

worked to bring grocery stores, loan funds, pharmacies, hardware stores, and other retail outlets to the community.

Kinsey currently serves as president of KBK Enterprises, a management consulting firm. He is a recognized expert and leader in the field of urban revitalization and economic development and has counseled the governments of South Africa, Germany, England, Israel, and France.

Scope and Content

This life oral history interview with Bernard Kinsey was conducted by Julieanna L. Richardson on July 28, 2001, in Pacific Palisades, California, and was recorded on 7 Betacame SP videocassettes. Management consulting chief executive Bernard Kinsey (1943 -) is an expert in urban revitalization and economic development. In 1992, Kinsey became the Chief Operating Officer and co-Chairman of Rebuild Los Angeles (RLA), under Peter Ueberroth. RLA's mission was to bring jobs, economic opportunities and pride to the area that had been devastated by the 1992 Los Angeles riots. Kinsey was also vice president of Xerox Corporation and president of KBK Enterprises, a management consulting firm.

Restrictions

Restrictions on Access

Restrictions may be applied on a case-by-case basis at the discretion of The HistoryMakers®.

Restrictions on Use

All use of materials and use credits must be pre-approved by The HistoryMakers®. Appropriate credit must be given. Copyright is held by The HistoryMakers®.

Related Material

Information about the administrative functions involved in scheduling, researching, and producing the interview, as well as correspondence with the interview subject is stored electronically both on The HistoryMakers® server and in two databases maintained by The HistoryMakers®, though this information is not included in this finding aid.

Controlled Access Terms

This interview collection is indexed under the following controlled access subject terms.

Persons:

Kinsey, Bernard, 1943--

Richardson, Julieanna L. (Interviewer)

Stearns, Scott (Videographer)

Subjects:

African Americans--Interviews
Kinsey, Bernard, 1943---Interviews

African American executives--California--Los Angeles--Interviews.

City planning--California--Los Angeles.

Manners and customs--Family.

West Palm Beach (Fla.)--Race relations.

Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University.

Humble Oil and Refining Company (Incorporated in Del.).

Strikes and lockouts.

Discrimination in employment.

Success in business.

Foster, William P. (William Patrick).

Marching bands--Florida--Tallahassee.

Art--Collectors and collecting--Interviews.

City planners--United States--Interviews.

Organizations:

HistoryMakers® (Video oral history collection)

The HistoryMakers® African American Video Oral History Collection

KBK Enterprises

Occupations:

Corporate Chief Executive

HistoryMakers® Category:

BusinessMakers

Administrative Information

Custodial History

Interview footage was recorded by The HistoryMakers®. All rights to the interview have been transferred to The HistoryMakers® by the interview subject through a signed interview release form. Signed interview release forms have been deposited with Jenner & Block, LLP, Chicago.

Preferred Citation

The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with Bernard Kinsey, July 28, 2001. The HistoryMakers® African American Video Oral History Collection, 1900 S. Michigan Avenue, Chicago, Illinois.

Processing Information

This interview collection was processed and encoded on 5/30/2023 by The HistoryMakers® staff. The finding aid was created adhering to the following standards: DACS, AACR2, and the Oral History Cataloging Manual (Matters 1995).

Other Finding Aid

A Microsoft Access contact database and a FileMaker Pro tracking database, both maintained by The HistoryMakers®, keep track of the administrative functions involved in scheduling, researching, and producing the interview.

Detailed Description of the Collection

Series I: Original Interview Footage

Video Oral History Interview with Bernard Kinsey, Section A2001_037_001_001, TRT: 0:29:46 ?

Bernard Kinsey talks about his parents's personalities and backgrounds. He explains the family tradition of attending Florida A&M University. He details his childhood and remembers growing up in West Palm Beach, Florida. Then, Kinsey discusses his early education and introduction to music. He recalls having his father as his elementary school principal and how that affected him. Bernard Kinsey talks about the various subjects he studied and then describes his childhood personality.

African American executives--California--Los Angeles--Interviews.

City planning--California--Los Angeles.

African American families.

West Palm Beach (Fla.)--Race relations.

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City planners--United States--Interviews.

- Video Oral History Interview with Bernard Kinsey, Section A2001_037_001_002, TRT: 0:29:39 ?
Bernard Kinsey talks about growing up in segregated West Palm Beach, Florida. Then, he recalls various leadership roles he had during his youth. He explains what influence church had on him. Kinsey discusses going to Roosevelt Middle School and how leaving his father's school impacted his personality and attitude toward education. After mentioning the educational successes of his family members he discusses his gambling activities during high school. He then moves into discussion about being a member of the Florida A&M marching band and shares experiences from his college days. Bernard Kinsey talks about his admiration for Dr. William Foster
- Video Oral History Interview with Bernard Kinsey, Section A2001_037_001_003, TRT: 0:31:09 ?
Bernard Kinsey talks about meeting his wife and how they planned financially for their future. He details his transition from Florida A&M to his first job with an oil company. Working in South Central Los Angeles, Kinsey describes his hard-nosed work ethic and how it led to personal success at the Humble Oil and Refining Company. Next, he talks about a strike that he was a part of at Humble and how this led him away from the company into a new position with Xerox. He explains how he was able to obtain his MBA with the financial help of Xerox. Bernard Kinsey explains the origins and successes of Xerox's National Black Employees Association.
- Video Oral History Interview with Bernard Kinsey, Section A2001_037_001_004, TRT: 0:30:55 ?
Bernard Kinsey discusses Xerox's Black Employees Association and talks about how it influenced other minority groups to form like-minded organizations. Then, he explains resistance that the Association faced in their attempts to gain equal rights in the workplace and how they dealt with it. Kinsey lays out specific principles for success and professionalism. He mentions ways in which he would bring black Xerox employees through the ranks and create leaders. Next, he discusses his experiences in international business affairs before explaining why he left Xerox. Bernard Kinsey talks about how he became involved with Rebuild Los Angeles.
- Video Oral History Interview with Bernard Kinsey, Section A2001_037_001_005, TRT: 0:29:13 ?
Bernard Kinsey describes his transition from Xerox to Rebuild L.A. He speaks on the confidence he had in himself in taking the new job. Kinsey then explains a three-legged stool concept that Rebuild L.A. used that joined community, government and business in local decisions. Next, he gives examples of Rebuild L.A. strategies in action and explains their initial focus. Because of the organization's success other cities and countries looked to Kinsey for similar help in which he discusses. He comments on how he dealt with an array of race agendas and then states reasons why he left the Rebuild L.A. project.
- Video Oral History Interview with Bernard Kinsey, Section A2001_037_001_006, TRT: 0:30:42 ?
Bernard Kinsey briefly talks about communication strategies he's used in business and then moves to explain his duties at his consulting firm KBK Enterprises. He talks about his passion for collection African American art. Kinsey tells how he has remained an involved member of the Florida A&M board. He states his hopes and concerns for the blacks in corporate America. He expresses his feelings on the importance of family and then considers his legacy. Bernard Kinsey narrates photos that document his life.

Video Oral History Interview with Bernard Kinsey, Section A2001_037_001_007, TRT: 0:29:03 ?
Bernard Kinsey narrates photos documenting his life.