**Q049-1: Jim Jones Coaches Jonestown Residents to Respond to Reporters**

**Transcript**

**Jones:** When they refer to me, what would you sa- when you- what- what would you call me?

**Woman 2:** Jim.

**Jones:** Pass. (Pause) When uh, you are to say, “Thank you,” uh, what- what- how will you say it?

**Man 2:** When-

**Jones:** (Pause) Bring them up in front so they (Unintelligible word)

(Man sings in the background)

**Jones:** Everybody has a tendency to say thank you something. How- how would you say “Thank you”?

**Man 2:** Thank you, thank you, Jim.

**Jones:** Just “Thank you” will be sufficient, I think. “Thank you.” Everybody’ll know what we’re talking about. Next. Uh- What would you say about the weather if you were asked about the weather?

**Man 3:** I would say that um, we have very- very nice weather here and everything, you know. Um, everything’s, you know, just fine. The weather’s just fine.

**Jones:** Well, wha- what is it? Does it get awful hot here?

**Man 3:** Um- No, we always- always have a nice trade wind to come along and cool us off.

**Jones:** That’s excellent, next.

**Man 3:** Thank you, Dad.

**Jones:** Always have the trade winds, keep the temperature mild. Shh. (Pause) What are some other bene- uh, benefits of the weather here?

**Man 4:** Ah, for one reason, we have uh, we had these nice rainy, rainy, uh- Well, rain comes at different time of day and it cools off the whole day here. Like you might be hot, and the rain comes by and leaves the whole air-

**Jones:** Not too hot, I wouldn’t talking about being too hot.

**Man 4:** I mean, well-

**Jones:** (Unintelligible word) atmosphere, you can take up- talk up with other people. All right, Charlie Touchette says he *prefers* this. It’s the best weather in the world for him. He always did like Indiana weather, August, July, and September. Uh, this is *ideal*. Some people *prefer* this in terms of sweating out the impurities. A lot of folk *do*. I would say about the weather – shush – I would say about the weather that uh, we always have some sunshine every day. That’s- that’s good. Pass. Always have some sunshine every day.

**Man 4:** Thank you, Dad.

**Jones:** “Thank you,” just say “thank you.” Stop the “Dad” now. Let’s practice. (Pause) Uh, what would you find wrong with this place?

**Man 5:** Um, I don’t find anything wrong. I’ve had more opportunities here than um, any other- than I ever did at the States. I have a chance to learn skills that I’ve never learned before and uh, I can- It’s just- It’s a fantastic place. There’s no-

**Jones:** You might say, before I came into this church, I was wasting my life on *drugs* and that sort of thing, you know, something like that.

**Man 5:** Sure. That’s-

**Jones:** Haven’t had any need for drugs, and haven’t committed a crime of any kind since I got in the church, ’cause my life is full- fulfilled. It’s fulfilled with happiness, everybody cares for everyone. You got the idea?

**Man 5:** (Unintelligible under Jones)

**Jones:** (Unintelligible word) ideas. Pass.

**Man 5:** Thank you. (Pause)

**Jones:** When you refer to Jonestown, how do you refer to it?

**Man 6:** I refer to Jonestown as a, uh, a, a ve- a very nice place. Umm, the we- I refer to it as a very nice place umm. The quality, people get along real- real well. Uh- There’s no crimes or anything that I know of. Ah, people get along, white and black all together and uh, I mean being equal, and uh, treating everyone right and helping each other in the a- in the any- any best way that they can now.

**Jones:** Good enough. I’d say it’s a community. That’s what I was after. Jonestown’s a community. To speak of Jonestown as a community, not the family, but that’s good. You gave good- good response. Next. (Pause) Um, for discipline, what do we do in Jonestown?

**Woman 3:** We, ah, take away uh, extra privileges like shows and uh, for the children sometimes the classes go on field trips and things like that.

**Jones:** Yes, I only do that a couple of days. Say, never have to do it more than a coupla days. Usually everybody straightened up and that’s about the b- getting the record anymore, people getting straightened up in that. Say that um, they- they just, some um, some treats, no, I wouldn’t- No. Don’t- We don’t deny treats. No, no, we don’t de- deny treats. Never. We never have, and so we don’t say that. Say, we never do it in the term of denial of treats. Say, in *fact*, in some of the younger people, the way of discipline is that they *like* to work so much that we set them aside and watch others work or do their class work, and that seems to have a greater effect on them than if we uh, would have some other form of the old antiquated- the old ideas of punishment. Understand? Pass.

**Woman 3:** Yes. Thank you.

**Jones:** Mm? Take them out of the uh- the class setting. I- The *group* is the word to watch and family watch and so forth. Out of their work project or their study project. Watch group and family. They’ve brainwashed America to make those words *bad*. They’re *negative*. You understand? You better all listen now. (Pause) Yes, we positively reinforce good behavior. When somebody’s got- When they’ve done something well, we give them merits, we give them special privileges, we give them special extra treats, and so forth and so on. (Pause) How do you refer to the uh, buildings out here?

**Man 7:** Umm-

**Jones:** What are they, those big buildings out there?

**Man 7:** Uh, we have uh, apartments. We have five apartments, and we have uh, cottages for our families and- and couples.

**Jones:** How many people live in the- on the average in the- in the house?

**Man 7:** Uh four. Two ah, uh, two couples to a house.

**Jones:** No, I wouldn’t say that. I’d say four or five. Just don’t go into that. (Unintelligible phrase) some couple can say, yeah, well, I share mine. They have no- if the couple’s asked themselves that they have any chi- But we don’t have any children, we picked out a couple we wanted to share with, we wanted to share our house with. You understand? Understand. Just as long as you, uh- Okay, you, (Stumbles over words) good, good, good. No, no dormitories. Pass. (Pause) Don’t ever refer to Promised Land or freedom land, by the way. And what would you say about that big thing out there on the field. What is that?

**Man 8:** Um, I don’t- I don’t know what you’re talking about.

**Jones:** Well, that thing stands up in the air there.

**Man 8:** Oh, that’s a playground for our children. We’re gonna put slides and everything on there so they can play, have a place to play. And also it’s a place for the uh, the hot season where we can watch for fires.

**Jones:** Oh, thank you. Pass.

**Man 8:** Thank you.

**Crowd:** (Laughter, hubbub)

**Jones:** What do you call it? The pagoda? Do you remember, if you call it the pagoda, but I know so many people there having a potato.

**Crowd:** (Laughter)

**Jones:** I- it’s- they think and try to remember it, I’d rather- So uh- (Pause) One word *don’t* use is “comrade.” How do you speak to people here, how would you call them by their-

**Man 9:** Either um, brothers or sisters.

**Jones:** I wouldn’t even do that. I wouldn’t do it at all. Falls into the family plan, of the brainwashing schemes that all interracial groups are a big family and dangerous. I’d call them uh, Jim, John, Joe or whatever.

**Man 10:** (in background) First name basis.

**Jones:** First name basis.

**Man 9:** First name basis. (Overlaps with Jones)

**Jones:** We ought to be on a first name basis with everybody. No revolutionary names, every revolutionary name better be dropped *now*. So you might at well- Don’t make an issue of being called Che [revolutionary nickname after Che Guevara], ’cause we’re not gonna call anybody Che. Nobody making that mistake. You hear me? We don’t want to hurt our people back there, we’re under CIA pressure. That can mean lots of trouble for our people back there. (Pause) Oh, what is it now? Wh- What is it they call that- what- what’re we supposed to call that tower, if we could remember it?

**Man 9:** A caboda.

**Jones:** No.

**Crowd:** (Laughs)