

Excerpted from May 14th, 2003 interview with Joe Burns, O.G. Clark, Mrs. G.E. Jackson by Camille Cosby for
The National Visionary Leadership Project, archived at the Library of Congress American
Folklife Center

MS. COSBY: Well, speaking of wealthy black people, I understand that Mr. Stratford, Jason Stratford--

MR. CLARK: Yeah, yeah, I--

MS. COSBY: That he was respon--that he--the white newspapers in Tulsa were holding him responsible for inciting the riot. Did you ever hear that?

MR. CLARK: No, I didn't hear that, and I don't think he--
[Simultaneous conversation.]

MS. COSBY: No, but I understand he fled.

MR. CLARK: Yeah, yeah.

MS. COSBY: And went to Chicago.

MR. CLARK: Yeah, but I don't think he--
[Simultaneous conversation.]

MS. COSBY: [inaudible].

MR. CLARK: No, I don't think he had nothing to do with that.

MS. COSBY: What do you think--do you think that the riot was preplanned, or do you think it really had something to do with this white woman accusing a young black man of assaulting her?

Mrs. Jackson, you want to say something about that?

MRS. JACKSON: Well, all I know about it is that this black man stepped on this white woman, or somewhat kind a way, and that's how it got started.

MS. COSBY: And did this, did this white woman press charges against this black man?

MRS. JACKSON: I don't know whether she pressed charges, I was so young, I don't remember, but I remember Mr. Irving coming home talking about it, and said, Whatever you do, don't go down on Greenwood because you might not get back alive.