



There were men and there were women, and there were several women who, in fact, were in charge of some of the programs in the party and who were on the central committee. One of the things I did notice, though, was that if you had an idea about something, if you were in the party, your idea was more likely to be listened to if you were male as opposed to being female.

There was that degree of sexism. You know, I did notice that, even though I knew that there were women who had responsibilities. So I saw the different parts of it. I saw women who were leading different party programs, but I also saw a degree of male authoritarianism.

You know, you ask what it was like for me. You know, I worked on the newspaper committee, and the newspaper committee was actually protected from a lot of stuff because it was considered vital that the newspaper come out every week, and that meant the people who worked on the newspaper, they did not want us to be locked up in jail or anything like that. So some of the more maybe dangerous situations or situations of being possibly arrested or locked u, we, were, for the most part. Kept away from those situations so that we could, in fact, put out the newspaper.

L: Now, after the party had folded or had been destroyed, you were one of the founders of the 1986 Black Panther Party Reunion, which later became a movement in its own right. Tell us about that.

J: October 1986 was the 20th anniversary of the founding of the Black Panther Party. The party started in october of 1966. Myself and two former party members, Madalynn Rucker and the late Ralph Moore, we got together, and we thought, you know, we need to have a reunion. We need to celebrate the fact that 20 years ago, the Black Panther Party was Started.

So Madalynn and Ralph and I came up with this idea to have the reunion. And so we began to put the word out and find someplace to have it, you know. Now, what's interesting is, is that everyone was not excited about having a Black Panther Party Reunion.

I'll never forget one of the comrades when I was talking to him about it, he said "why are you all doing this? JoNina, you just need to let the party die. It's over. We don't need to bring all that stuff up again." and he wasn't the only one. There were some other people who thought it was a bad idea to have a Black Panther Party reunion.

But we pressed on, nevertheless spread the word about it happening, found a location for it. We actually had it at a hotel in downtown Oakland. We were able

