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[Contempt for His Torturers]

Beliefs & Customs - Folkstuff

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Project worker Terry Roth

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NEW YORK Forms to be Filled out for Each Interview Section III [6?]

FORM A Circumstances of Interview

STATE New York

NAME OF WORKER Terry Roth Sam Schwartz

ADDRESS 47 W. 69th Street, N.Y.C. 152 W. 13th Street, N.Y.C.

DATE March 28, 1939

SUBJECT Contempt For His Torturers

1. Date and time of interview Afternoon, March 27, 1939
2. Place of interview I.L.G.W.U.
3. Name and address of informant Mr. Wollman
4. Name and address of person, if any, who put you in touch with informant.
5. Name and address of person, if any, accompanying you

Sam Schwartz

6. Description of room, house, surroundings, etc.

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FORM C Text of Interview (Unedited)

STATE New York

NAME OF WORKER Terry Roth Sam Schwartz

ADDRESS 47 W. 69th Street, N.Y.C. 152 W. 13th Street, N.Y.C.

DATE March 28, 1939

SUBJECT Contempt For His Torturers

I'll relate you a story my friend he told me. It will give you an idea.

In the olden days, about one hundred years ago, the Jews in Poland were the middle element, between the peasantry and the big landlords. They used to collect taxes from the peasants for the big landlords. There was one Jew, he had about six daughters to marry and he was the one that collected the taxes. The landlord was the nobility. So since he had about six daughters to marry, he took down some money that he collected, and he married them off. Then he didn't have money to pay to the landlords. Those days, the landlord was the absolutely Czar of his peasants. So, you'll pardon me, since he didn't have the money, he went to the landlord and he said to leave down his pants and flog him. Because he didn't have to pay. So they flogged him and they let him to rest off a week and another day they flogged him and let him to rest. So the Jewish fellow went to the Rabbi and he told the Rabbi, "What shall I do? They are flogging me and it hurts." So the Rabbi answered him. "What do you care? He's only a goy. It doesn't mean anything."

Why did he tell me that? Because he's a married man and 2 has five children. And he was out of work at t at time. So he related that story in connection with his condition. This is the philosophy of the Chassidism (semi religious secular movement, primarily against the

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intellectual hierarchy). That he looked with contempt on his torturers. No matter how they torture him, he doesn't care.