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ENGSTROM

ENGSTROM, HAROLD (OH-134) 62 pages PRCQ (M)

Member of Little Rock, Arkansas, school board, 1957.

DESCRIPTION: Interview #1. Election to school board in 1955. Discussion of the Blossom Plan and Dr. Dale Alford's views of it; reasons for beginning integration of school system at the senior high school level rather than the grammar school. Observations on Governor Orval Faubus' decision to call out the National Guard at Central High School, his close advisers, and his reasons for opposing integration. Comments on the school board's reaction to president Eisenhower's sending in federal troops; Faubus' decision to close the high schools in September 1958 and its effect upon both the public and the students. The resignation of school board members and the discharge of Virgil Blossom. General comments on the role of the NAACP in the crisis; the economic and educational effects of the crisis on Little Rock.

[Columbia Oral History Project, interview by John Luter, 1970]