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Date: 5/19/75

UPTON

UPTON, WAYNE (OH-245) 65 pages PRCQ (M)

Member of Little Rock, Arkansas, School Board, 1957-58.

DESCRIPTION: Interview #1. Election to the school board in spring 1957. School superintendent Virgil Blossom: work in educating the public on the board's desegregation plan; his ability as an administrator; his eventual leaving the job. Assessment of role played by Governor Orval Faubus during the entire school crisis. Short narrative of events at Central High School in September 1957. Attitude of the community towards the crisis: reaction by the chief of police and the mayor; the Little Rock newspapers; the NAACP; the segregationist leaders. Coverage of the crisis by the news-media. The attempted teacher purge in 1959. The private high schools for the 1959-59 school year. Reflection on DDE's decision to send in Federal troops.

[COHP, interview by John Luter, 1971.]