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BRANTON

BRANTON, WILEY AUSTIN

(OH-252)

62 pages

PRCQ

Attorney involved in Little Rock, Arkansas school integration crisis, 1957-59; Director, Voter Education Project, Southern Regional Council, 1962-65; Special Assistant to the U.S. Attorney General, 1965-67.

DESCRIPTION: Interview #1. Service with the Voter Education Project (VEP): his selection as director of VEP; comment on Justice Department's assistance to VEP; formulation of the confrontation strategy of Greenwood; his functions as VEP's director; VEP's role in formation of Congress of Federated Organizations (COFO) in Mississippi; results of white assistance to register black voters; assessment of VEP's accomplishment of its goals; VEP's relationship to major civil rights organizations—especially NAACP, CORE, SNCC, and SCLC—and some of their leaders. Observation on attitude of Justice Department officials towards civil rights during his service as a special assistant. Personal background, including service in World War II and post-war civil rights actions in Arkansas. The school integration crisis in Little Rock: handling several law suits involved; comment on Justice Department's cooperation; part played by Orval Faubus in the crisis.

[Columbia University Oral History Project, interview by Steven Lawson, 1970]