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ALFORD

ALFORD, DALE                      OH-164              84 pages              PRCQ

Member of Little Rock, Arkansas school board, 1955-58; Congressman from Arkansas, 1959-63.

DESCRIPTION: Interview #1. Personal background. Observations on the school integration crisis in Little Rock: why Little Rock seemed to be a pilot project for school integration; comment on the political motivation behind the crisis; comment on the Little Rock problem as a grave states rights-constitutional issue. His race against Brooks Hays for congressman. The power of Orval Faubus' political machine in Arkansas. How he and his wife put together their thoughts on the crisis in a book entitled The Case of the Sleeping People.

Interview #2. Excerpts from the Alford's book, The Case of the Sleeping People (privately printed in 1959): Virgil Blossom's role in the coming of the school integration crisis in Little Rock; Alford's opinion regarding school segregation, and the use of federal troops in Little Rock in 1957; the various court rulings on the Little Rock schools in the summer of 1958; the election to close the high schools for the 1958-59 school year; Alford's campaign for Congress in 1958.

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