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BUTLER

BUTLER, RICHARD C. (OH-174) 47 pages PRCQ (to Columbia)

Special Counsel for the Little Rock, Arkansas School Board, 1956-59.

DESCRIPTION: Interview #1. Personal background. Virgil Blossom and his plan for desegregation of Little Rock schools. Arguing the school board's case in court: before Judge Harry Lemley in Arkansas; comment on Thurgood Marshall; before the U.S. Supreme Court. Observations on methods to preserve the public education system, and neighborhood schools.

Interview #2. Arguing the school board's case before the U.S. Supreme Court: Comment on enforced busing to achieve racial balance; assessment of blame to be placed on the Supreme Court; position of Earl Warren. Short observations on DDE, and Arkansas Governor Orval Faubus. Virgil Blossom and his desegregation plan. Comment on the school board resignations in 1958.

[Columbia University Oral History Project, interviews by John Luter, 1971]