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GRISWOLD

GRISWOLD, NAT R. (OH-185) 85 pages PRCQ (Columbia)

Director, Arkansas Council on Human Relations, 1955-66.

DESCRIPTION: Interview #1. Description of the Arkansas Council on Human Relations: establishment; purpose and goals; role during the school integration crisis in Little Rock. Assessment of the stand on desegregation taken by Superintendent Virgil Blossom and the Little Rock school board, and its effect on Governor Orval Faubus. Blossom's handling of the school desegregation plan. Short comments: on individual school board members; on role of Jimmy Karam; on reaction of city officials to the crisis. Observations on the closing of public schools for the school year 1958-59, and the attempted purge of teachers in 1959. Position taken by the teachers and the clergy during the crisis. Assessment of the actions of Governor Faubus. General observations on how to end segregation.

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