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SMITH

SMITH, WILLIAM J. (OH-240) 91 pages PRCQ

Legislative secretary and legal counsel to Arkansas Governor Orval Faibus, 1957-67;
Associate Justice of the Arkansas Supreme Court, 1958.

DESCRIPTION: Interview #1. Background information on how he became associated with Governor Faibus. Assessment of Superintendent Virgil Blossom, and the Blossom Plan for desegregation of Little Rock schools. Actions of Faibus: reasons for calling out the National Guard; going to Newport with Brooks Hays to meet with DDE.

Interview #2. Comments on Faibus' meeting with DDE at Newport. Faibus' philosophy of following court orders. Harassment of the Governor and his aides by federal officials and local extremists. Observations re Governor Faibus: political benefits of Faibus' handling of the school situation; Faibus and Jimmy Karam; Faibus as a leader of public opinion; Faibus' "law and order" philosophy, and feelings towards strict segregationists; Faibus' position towards Ed I. McKinley and the school board recall election of 1959; Faibus as a populist, and a man of conviction; Faibus and the private Raney High School, 1958-59. Role of Attorney General Herbert Brownell during the crisis in 1957.

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