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PATTERSON

PATTERSON, HUGH

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PRCQ (M)

Publisher, *Arkansas Gazette*, at time of Little Rock, Arkansas school integration crisis, 1957.

DESCRIPTION: Little Rock School Board decision to comply with *Brown v. Board of Education* decision and concern over community acceptance; Harry Ashmore to head study on integration prior to the decision; School Board plan for gradual integration; Orval Faubus and the summer leading up to the 1957 school year; *Gazette* position on Faubus; Patterson, Ashmore, and school superintendent Virgil Blossom wanted to persuade Faubus not to follow his 'reckless course;' Ashmore's background; build up of community opposition to integration; Faubus' testimony that school integration might lead to violence; attempts to dissuade Faubus from acting; Winthrop Rockefeller tried to talk to Faubus; relationship between Faubus and the *Gazette*; first clear evidence Faubus was calling out the National Guard; paper's editorial position; Patterson never had an occasion to discuss the crisis with Faubus; role of mayor Woodrow Mann; sequence of events; slow response by the Federal government; National Guard troops around the Governor's mansion prevented access to Faubus; actions of Brooks Hays; what Patterson felt would have been a better approach to DDE; after Guard was replaced by city police students again tried to get into Central High; Faubus' actions the result of his own political decisions and not attributable to political advisors; public sentiment generally relieved after Federal troops sent in; advice sought from *Gazette* editorial staff; Faubus benefited from the crisis and had adversarial relationship with *Gazette*; boycott against the *Gazette*; *Arkansas Democrat* editorially silent on the crisis; *Arkansas Democrat* did not print editorials on the school crisis; *Gazette* lost advertising revenue and subscribers because of their strong support of school integration; covering the school crisis expensive but brought valuable relationships with national media; school closure in second year of integration; establishment of the Women's Emergency Committee; revival in advertising revenue and circulation; role of religious leaders during the crisis; Faubus gained politically during this time; Ashmore worked as speech writer for the Adlai Stevenson 1956 campaign; Winthrop Rockefeller; Brooks Hays; NAACP; L. C. and Daisy Bates and their newspaper; black leaders and the black community; coverage of the events by national media; Phil Graham; some thoughts on Virgil Blossom and how he handled the crisis; Faubus' intervention primarily responsible for the crisis; lack of prosecution for the troublemakers; Granger Williams; Monsignor John O'Connell; additional clergymen and other individuals who were involved; Faubus' relationship to the *Gazette*; names of contacts for proposed interviews regarding Little Rock.

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[Columbia University Oral History Project, interview by John Richard, Oct. 16 and 20, 1972]