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CLARK

**CLARK, THOMAS C. (OH-553) 27 pgs.**

**OPEN**

Attorney General of the United States, 1945-1949; Associate Justice, Supreme Court of the United States, 1949-1977; Director, Federal Judicial Center, 1968-1970.

DESCRIPTION: Strategy of Thurgood Marshall and the NAACP in Brown v. Board of Education; lack of coordination among defenders of segregation; Clark's work to get African-Americans admitted to the Federal Bar; NAACP and Howard Law School; confidence of segregation supporters; changes in segregation in education prior to 1954; some Justices would have liked a case from Washington, DC area under Fifth Amendment; miscegenation cases; integration on interstate trains under Interstate Commerce Act led to push for integration in other areas; reasons court decided against segregated education; why the Supreme Court called for reargument on historical grounds; how the Court raised questions; questions regarding historical intent; ambiguity of wording of the Constitution allows interpretation according the necessities of time; order of cases set before Chief Justice [Fred] Vinson's death; Justice [Harold] Burton's diary; changes in the Court and the feeling on the Court against segregation; higher education cases led to elementary school cases; changing attitudes regarding civil rights; the decision to use the phrase 'all deliberate speed'; difficulty in implementing the decision in various states; progress made in some Southern states; problems with the decision and ways it could have been better; renewed hope and civil rights developments spurred by the decision; work with the Federal Judicial Center; disappointment of Presidents trying to control the philosophy of the Court with appointments.

[Dwight D. Eisenhower Library Oral History, interview by James Durham, March 28, 1972]