

Processed by: EWH  
Date: 2/20/93

SCOTT

SCOTT, CHARLES S.

(OH-475)

57 pages

OPEN

Attorney, Topeka, Kansas; worked with NAACP on Brown vs. Board of Education case.

DESCRIPTION: Early involvement with civil rights; work with local branch of NAACP (Topeka), 1947; on integration within elementary schools; reasons behind elementary school choice; Topeka lawyers Charles Bledsoe and John Scott (brother); national NAACP coordination; solicitation of Brown family for test case and reasons for; federal judges Huxman, Mellott, Hill; "separate but equal" doctrine; arguing the detrimental effects of segregated schools on all children; influence of Judge Huxman; the effects of the McLaurin case; use of expert witnesses; reasons for filing an appeal with the US Supreme Court; preparations of the pleadings; Kansas' permissive statute; involvement of Thurgood Marshall, Robert L. Carter, Jack Greenberg, Jim Nabrit, the Scotts (Charles, John, Elijah, father); initial presentation of case, 1952; re-argument, 1955; Earl Warren; Eisenhower administration's interest; plan for implementation of desegregation decision in Topeka; school board personnel; objections to plan; community reactions; J. Lee Rankin, Assistant U.S. Attorney General; failure to foresee problem of de facto segregation; Scott's opinions as to political leanings of various Supreme Courts; unanimous decision of Warren court [in Brown case]; use of the courts for expansion of civil rights; examples of black-white issues based on Scott's personal experiences in various cases; current role of the NAACP [in 1970's]; Scott's assessment of Nixon on civil rights issues; value of the Brown case in establishing precedent; proponents of dual school board system; black economic power and integration; interpretation of "separate but equal" educational facilities in Kansas.

[Dwight D. Eisenhower Library Oral History, interview by Dr. James C. Duram and Robert Bunting, June 25, 1970]