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LILE

LILE, R.A.

(OH-219)

32 pages

PRCQ

Member of Little Rock, Arkansas School Board, 1957-58

DESCRIPTION: Interview #1. The Blossom Plan for desegregation, and educating the people on how it worked. Governor Orval Faubus, and the effect of his political ambitions on the crisis. Biased reporting by newspaper reporters. Position of the school board being caught in the middle of the crisis. Assessment of school superintendent Virgil Blossom. Reflection on responsibilities of the Federal Government during the crisis. Resignation of the school board in 1958. Observations re the Federal judge from North Dakota, and the handling of the crisis by the White House staff.

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