

This is David Colburn, I am interviewing Dr. Royal W. Puryear August 1, 1980 in Winston-Salem, North Carolina.

C: Dr. Puryear, why don't we start ~~at~~ with your background. Tell me something about where you, about where you were raised and family and your education.

P: I was born here in Winston-Salem, North Carolina. I am the eldest of seven children, four boys and three girls. All of us completed the public schools here. We are all college graduates. I attended Howard University in Washington, D.C. I completed my masters at Indiana University, Bloomington, Indiana.

[I] Did special studies in college administration at the University of Michigan.

I did my preliminary studies at UNION Theological Seminary, Columbia University.

C: What uh, what did your father do, what was his occupation?

P: My father was a building contractor, REPAIRER, AND <sup>OR</sup> decorating.

C: And your mother, did she work?

P: My mother was a storekeeper, in a grocery store.

C: What was it like growing up in Winston-Salem as a youth?

P: Winston-Salem has always been a very good town to rear a family because it was a two industry city. R.J. REYNOLDS Tobacco Company and Hanes knitting mill. My family on my mother's side worked for the Hanes family and my family on the other side worked for the Reynolds family. My great-grandfather was one of the first foreman in the <sup>R.J.</sup> Audrey Reynolds Tobacco Company. Even though my fathers brother, his father worked the <sup>R.J.</sup> Audrey Reynold's Tobacco Company, not any of the children ever worked in either of the industries, though we all worked at the homes and families of the two major families in the city. And I would suspect that this had some influence on our education, our interest and concern for the welfare of community \_\_\_\_\_.

C: What was the Winston-Salem like racially as a child?

P: Typical of the age in which I grew up. It was segregated. But you had a concern on the part of the Hanes family and the Reynolds family which led to an interest in the black community that just does not exist except in a few countries and America. So that in the area in which I lived, very fine homes, very good schools, very good teachers, and the location of a state school here, and my sisters attended school, very important. I grew up in a family where the education of the boys was more important than anything else. My Dad and mother made special sacrifices to see to it that their children received the best. My three brothers attended Hampton; I attended Howard, Washington, D.C.

C: Did your father put you through school?

P: Oh yes, my father. And some friends that wanted to help<sup>you</sup> out, but as a building contractor we had no problems, and all of us worked in school. In those days there wasn't any such thing as scholarships; if there were we didn't know anything about them. At Hampton Institute you were assigned a job, and you went to school. At Howard I worked a goodly portion of my way. I drove the college president and rang the university bell. That was significant in my growing up, because I attended the church in Washington, D.C. of a former pastor of the First Baptist Church here in Winston-Salem, Dr. G.O. Bullom (?) who's family was highly educated with medical doctors and lawyers, and I was in that home quite often, drove the Sunday school<sup>AND</sup> church bus.

C: Is that what influenced you into the seminary?

P: My interest in the seminary grew out of a background of having worked with the Young Men's Christian Association. I returned to Winston-Salem even though I was offered jobs at in Atlanta, New York, and Washington D.C. The fact that I was the oldest son, there was a necessity for my returning home and being of help with my mother and father in educating the others. I grew up under the influence of what I did in college affected<sup>IN</sup> the other six. So there wasn't a question of how well I did, it was a question of how well I did better than

P: all the rest that I attended school with.

C: Um hum.

P: This was always in the back of my mind at the time, competing with the other students in school. I was the youngest student in the entering college school and graduated at 20. I started teaching here in Winston-Salem North Carolina.

C: So you came back and you started teaching school?

P: I taught the third grade in elementary school for one semester. Then I went to Atkins High School and stayed at Atkins High School from 19 January, 1934 to April 9, 1942. I entered the executive secretariship of the Young Men's Christian Association in Vicksburg, Mississippi, remained there 18 months and was promoted to regional, the regional office of the YMCA in Dallas, Texas. This covered a five state area; Louisiana, Oklahoma, Texas, Arkansas. In that connection it was my responsibility to organize the YMCA, conduct campaigns, deal with <sup>PERSONNEL</sup> ~~PERSONEL~~ problems. I did part time service with the USO during the war period. Received special training for that. Served on the special task force for the armed services, visiting army camps to inspect USO's; Hattiesburg, Mississippi, the state of Louisiana and in other areas. Barring the five year period in the area office, I was moved to the World Youth Fund, and it was my responsibility along with that of Mr. LAVINE (?) to close out an auction, the materials, furniture, articles and any other articles or materials, at all the <sup>[USO]</sup> USA's all over the world. In this opportunity the privilege came to visit all the continents in the world. This was an eye-opening experience. At the same time I was at the YMCA, I have always been <sup>CLOSELY ASSOCIATED WITH</sup> ~~close to the~~ Association Church Work. I worked with St. John's Baptist Church in Dallas, Texas, I became interested in the ministry during that period \_\_\_\_\_ church on the road \_\_\_\_\_ . I served St. Johns church . When I left the wire, I flew with the influence of the Chairman of the regional YMCA. He recommended me to College

P: Bonnie Association (?) at Butler College in <sup>DALLAS</sup> ~~Laos~~, Texas. I remained there for a period ending November of 1948. I went to FLORIDA Normal Industrial College in St. Augustine, Florida in 1950, June. I remained there until August of 1958. Then with my \_\_\_\_\_ build and relocate a college 812 miles, the new 20 million-dollar plant in Miami, Dade County.

C: Why did you leave Butler?

P: A new opportunity, larger opportunity.

C: Florida Normal was a larger school, was it?

P: Yes, plus the fact that I thought I, was \_\_\_\_\_ intended coming back towards home.

C: I see.

P: From Texas.

C: Right, yea. I want to define that going to Florida was more away from home actually in terms of being part of your mainstream of urban activity, because the line of activity runs from Washington to Atlanta, from Atlanta to Texas. And the Florida area was, at that time, off to the side.

C: What ~~un~~, what did you do in the early years ~~un~~ while you were at Florida Normal?

P: When I first went to Florida Memorial College in 1950 it was experiencing a period of change. It had the largest below college level program and <sup>VOCATIONAL TRAINING</sup> occasionally traded of any college in the United States. Some 17 different offerings; sheet metal, carpentry. And it is pretty evident that the administration has lost sight of its major goal. Now the greater number of the students, over 800, were in the non-college programs. Between 1950 and 1953 it was my task disassemble and eliminate those phases of the programs and to bring the college back to its original purpose. We decided upon a period . . .

C: What was its original purpose? Excuse me for interrupting you.

P: Uh Liberal Arts college . It started as typically a church related college for the training of ministers organized by the Home Mission Society of Northern Baptist SEMINARY , like MOORE house .

Florida Memorial a United Negro College Fund college. But because of monies, because of the change and the times we decided that <sup>at</sup> Florida Memorial, we would devote all of our energies to training elementary school teachers. This is what we did, and for a period of almost ten years we devoted our attention to specializing and training of elementary school teachers. And I do not hesitate to feel that we <sup>TRAINED</sup> turned some of the best elementary school teachers in the state of Florida. So much so until when the \_\_\_\_\_

<sup>6</sup> 1934 decisions to integrate public schools in the state of Florida. Our schools were called upon to be the first group of teachers to be assigned. VERO BEACH,

Florida was the first location for secondary school teachers and there were several \_\_\_\_\_ elementary school teachers for. We decided after a ten year study, based on a grant from the Florida Foundation, to move the college, <sup>[IN A]</sup> Liberal Arts direction . We had various foundations come in and survey our efforts and our interests.

C: When did the survey start?

P: The survey started in the area of 1957, '56, '57, '58, and it was in 1958 when a foundation executive came to my office one day and said to me " Why do you keep this college \_\_\_\_\_ St. Augustine" and I was baffled at this type of question because they didn't know the motive behind it. \_\_\_\_\_ was that our foundation will not be able to give your college the kind of support that you need, because this community is really not large enough to give this kind of support that you need. Although ~~the~~ St. AUGUSTINE was, had just completed raising \$34,000 which represented a very large sum of money, the largest sum of money to my knowledge for any project, even more than the amount of money raised from the United Fund for higher education. St. Augustine

P: was a one man power structure which may be MADE IT INTO A tourist town. Our college was unique in a city of that kind. In the early years we had an integrated faculty <sup>AND</sup> while the town had some questions about it, as long as the faculty members lived on campus there was VERY LITTLE <sup>REACTION</sup> ~~of the~~ actions. My wife and I were accorded privileges which were not normal to the pattern of segregation.

C: Um hum

P: Frankly I do not recall any experience in St. Augustine to warrant... that led me to react as I was brought up. That was a situation with the banker, a young lady, the teller, asked me for my first initials stood for and I took a colorful point of view in answering her. As I told her that I did not know her socially well enough, and I doubted seriously if I would know her socially well enough to, for us to be on a first name basis. The president of the bank was the treasurer of our board and I reported it to him. He immediately took the teller to task.

*Frank* C: Was this Frank Carrol.

P: Frank Carrol, one of the finest men that I know. He was really the <sup>ONLY</sup> honored man in that town <sup>that</sup> and our college would honor with an honorary degree. He was not only supportive of the college, he was liberal in his point of view in reference to our education. I could very well understand personally why the pressures came in 1954, <sup>6</sup> ~~and this happened to be down to~~ <sup>when this happened he RESIGNED from</sup> my board as a member.

C: When did he resign, you don't remember the year?

P: It was, it was, it was very \_\_\_\_\_ around 1954, <sup>6</sup> shortly thereafter. But this never affected the relationship between myself and Mr. Carrol, neither did it affect the relationship between the college and the bank. Even today, I bank with the St. Augustine National, the Barnett National Bank <sup>in</sup> ~~and the~~ St. Augustine, FLORIDA. And the young man who was the courier and drove the president of the bank to our church meetings

P: is now president of the bank, Edward Cosgrove and if you haven't interviewed him he would be a marvelous person to interview. Have you interviewed Mr. Carrol?

C: Yes.

P: Mr. Ed Cosgrove would be a marvelous person to interview because he has, he is, he has come through the period just before the Supreme Court decision, has been a part, an active part, of seeing the change that has come to St. Augustine. Now I don't know whether Reverend Wright told you about it or not, but one of the interesting facets about the race relations in St. Augustine, especially during the crisis of the VISIT of Martin Luther King was. . . The fact that I worked with the power structure to the point where they, we had come to the conclusion that there was no longer a sensitive thing to maintain a separate but equal relationship. Our students have SAT IN at the five and ten cent store. Power structure has asked me, "Would I get them off?" ~~do you want to get them off,~~ and I told them the students \_\_\_\_\_ and I had as long as they were good students I acted in accordance with the rules and regulations of the institution, I wouldn't ask them what their extracurricular activities <sup>were</sup> and I felt that what was doing was correct. In <sup>6</sup>1954, on the Supreme Court decision \_\_\_\_\_ This community relative to all other communities. In this community it shouldn't be too difficult to do it because it was a tourist town. Once we got one man in that town, and you notice I'm not calling his name, to decide that it was the proper thing to do. We set September of <sup>6</sup>1954 or <sup>6</sup>'55, I don't recall the exact date, to open everything, let the students of our college open everything since they had been the instigators of sitting <sup>in the sit-ins</sup> with the city. We had a dentist there who was very young, who felt that that wasn't early enough. Having lived to be <sup>years</sup> 52 under the system of segregation, it didn't seem a long time to me to wait two months to do things, and frankly I, it hasn't affected me too much anyway.

C: This was Dr. Haling/

P: Dr. Haling, that used to be, have you talked with him?

C: Yes.

P: Well I can imagine the type of report that you got from him. Did he tell you about his experience with the KKK?

C: Yes

P: Well he came by to invite me to a ~~wedding~~ ONE NIGHT, and I told him I hadn't <sup>received an</sup> ~~even seen~~ the invitation \_\_\_\_\_ and if I did I doubt if I would attend. It was just that simple.

C: Was he, does he, I don't know if you know him, but there is a suggestion that he went out there and informed the ~~up~~ Jacksonville television station that he was going out there, and tried to get them to cover the event so that they'd get attention for their movement in St. Augustine

P: I do not know anything about that. I do recall my having told him point blank that I didn't intend \_\_\_\_\_

C: \_\_\_\_\_

P: Uh, Bob

C: \_\_\_\_\_

P: he needed to be going to the Klu Klux Klan meeting.

C: Can I back up for a minute and just ask you a couple of questions about the faculty of the college. Where did your faculty come from and how large was it?

P: The college at that time was rather small and our faculty was small. we had three white teachers, we had one <sup>teacher</sup> who was one lect of a teacher, and all the rest were black. But we didn't have any white teachers ]who even lived in the community in that time. We did not have any problem at all with the community until I hired a Chinese man. Dr. Chao or Choa. He is at Patterson, New Jersey, a member of the faculty. He was a specialist in communication, that was the basis of my hiring him, a PhD in communications.

P: And this was a <sup>coming</sup> ~~current~~ area. I had taken two courses at the University of Florida, knew math, so he obviously knew something about the new math, that's where it began, you know?

C: Um hum.

P: And um our faculty was constantly going to the University of Florida, after the University of Florida also became integrated

C: \_\_\_\_\_

P: I, it's uh INTEGRATION ~~education~~ primarily \_\_\_\_\_

End Side 1

P: All of the white faculty had ~~their~~ PhD's and they were educated, some of them were foreigner's. Dr. MANCHAK was the Administrator of Economics, from Czechoslovakia - he got out before the Communists took over. Dr. Choa <sup>to America</sup> had come to be educated AND REMAINED IN AMERICA. Dr. Lee was in the area of history was trained in both China and the United States \_\_\_\_\_

C: Oh yes

P: ~~~~~ um he was quite good. My director of music, while he did not hold a PhD was highly educated. He <sup>ACTED AS</sup> actively dean for a while, though his speciality grew with the college choir. He traveled throughout the state with his wife and children. Now we had only one incident in our total travels and that was at Marianna, Florida where

C: They have lots of problems in there, right?

P: Marianna, not Marianna. What's the name of that town? another town.

C: \_\_\_\_\_

P: It was in West Florida this side of the, uh, it would have to be \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ name of the town \_\_\_\_\_

C: What about your students, now how many students did Florida <sup>NORMAL</sup> Memorial have when you arrived? APPROXIMATELY?

P: It had 105 academic students and around 900 non academic \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_.

C: Right, where did they come from? Where did your students come from, where they from Florida and St. Augustine or ?

P: Possibly when I arrived at Florida Memorial, Florida Normal Industrial as it was called at that time ~~~~~. The students, Oh possibly 80 percent were from the state of Florida, and from other areas. We probably had more Methodists than we had Baptists. There were \_\_\_\_\_  
the more Baptists that we had.

C: Did you have many from St. Augustine?

P: We had a number of students from St. Augustine, but St. Augustine is typical of any other community.

C: Where the students from middle-class black backgrounds, would you say?

P: Oh yes, but we were very fortunate to receive families from the better homes in the state of Florida, doctors, <sup>AND</sup> lawyers' children because we think that our teaching program, our program is especially in the teaching area. Then as we move into the different arts we received a grant from the Kellogg Foundation in Florida St. Augustine to establish <sup>business</sup> in the state. And it wasn't two years before business administration had outgrown all the rest of the colleges. So when we went to Miami . . .

C: What year was that, you went to Miami?

P: In August of 1968, the campus had been completed with the air conditioning. One, two dormitories had been completed, All the Administrative, parts of the gymnasium \_\_\_\_\_ doors opening out to a large sitting area \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ I had taken this Science Center, first Science Center, and the teaching building, where all the doors opened to an out, outside \_\_\_\_\_ on the second floor by the offices. Have you ever been on the campus?

C: No I haven't.

P: If you ever go on the campus you'll find the center where all the secretaries, secretaries

C: Did the college move there, now you told me the study started well before the racial crisis but . . .

P: We started in 1958 with the idea of a new location because of this question of foundation support and other support.

C: Was it, was the, did the move uh gain momentum because of the problems arising in 1963 and '64?

P: Not in my church/

C: Not in your church.

P: I would suspect that other people might do that, but I usually give four or five reasons for relocation. Number one was the fact that when I arrived in Florida, the center of black population was in Ocala. By 1965, '63-'65, the black population had moved to West Palm Beach county, Broward county and Dade county, and there was not a single institution in that area that was serving the special interests of that group. We did a special study, and we had selected four areas. This was even prior to a lot of the racial strife in 1963, you see. This was back in the '50's. And Orlando, where we owned 42 acres of land, uh Duval county had Edward Waters College. West Palm Beach, we were offered over 200 acres of land by the ~~um~~ <sup>Dr.</sup> Banker, McArthur, but the cost of refilling it was so enormous the College didn't even accept the offer. Then because of the straight line location of colleges across the middle part of Highway 4, Bethune Cookman, you had two colleges in Orlando, you had two colleges <sup>over</sup> in Tampa, the University of Tampa, Florida's, University of South Florida. We decided that we were going in any direction it would have to be what would be referred to as a \_\_\_\_\_ Well there was our first location was at the corner of 125th on 25th and 27th Avenue. Well the government owned 160 acres of land, we actually had option on that piece of land. I cannot explain to you today politically what happened, except to know that if a county, a city, municipality, or a state, or the United States desired a piece of property which <sup>is</sup> ~~it~~ already owned, even though a somebody had bought it, they would buy their interest or take it off of them. We lost that I think basically because the expressway coming, going east and west from the Palmetto Meadow to I95 across to Miami Beach was between our college and the development of ANOTHER Junior College. And I suspect that some interest of the Junior College had something to do with it because I recall distinctly when we were moved to Miami, faculty members from the Junior College...  
I knew I had to \_\_\_\_\_ because I was expected to \_\_\_\_\_

P: this actually happened. And uh this despite the fact that we had constituted or organized a group of all the college presidents, <sup>they</sup> they had welcomed us to the community. The welcome was of such a nature that we opened with over 700 students from 275. We went in with growing pains, growing pains to the point of we had budgeted \$50,000 for relocation which included the moving of faculty. Incidentals of moving whatever furniture that you were going to take and the library books which we would use. It cost us \$803,000 to move over here because we had to build special houses <sup>ING</sup> for our male students. And the enrollment from the urban community was of such that, so large, because they couldn't qualify to go to the University of Miami, there was no question about that, they couldn't pass the exam entrance exams and they didn't have, even though Florida was very liberal <sup>in terms of</sup> ~~at that time,~~ the College of Admissions, it had not reached the point where, <sup>this liberality</sup> ~~which it rarely did,~~ had reached people beyond Chicano's, Cubans, anything else except blacks born in America, and that is an honest appraisal.

C: Let me, let me get us back to the racial crisis. The first incident that seems to occur as I read through the ~~to~~ developments besides some of the early things that took place, was in '63 when President Johnson, or Vice-President Johnson, excuse me, was coming to St. Augustine, that's the first, I guess, key development that occurred. What uh, what involvement did you have in that?

P: My wife and I were guests at the dinner, and he came over to our table and our own governor was with him and he ignored us completely and passed on by.

C: Bryant?

P: Bryant.

C: Did uh, were you the only black ~~uh~~ people at the ~~uh~~ . . .

P: My wife and I were the only blacks in vited to the dinner.

C: Was, did Haling bring much pressure on you to try and discourage you from going or?

P: He didn't know anything about it and didn't have anything to do with it.

C: Yea, I know he wrote . . .

P: I am not sure that, I, I don't recall the time that Haling actually came, I'd have to . . .

C: It was about 1960 he came to St. Augustine but he didn't become involved in any of the racial things . . .

P: <sup>lets</sup> See, when he came to St. Augustine, the man that was there before he was

C: Dr. Gordon.

P: Dr. Gordon was a Panamanian, and 99 to 95% of the would say he was white. Haling just took this over.

C: Right.

P: And I said to him more than a half a dozen times but Goddammit, that he would have to be extremely careful of the big difference between being a Negroe born in America and a Panamanian, regardless of what his color was as long as <sup>he had</sup> slicked back hair. And this man had an access of wide open priveleges to the hospital, which Haling did not have.

C: What kind of man was Haling? Why was he uh . . .

P: He was typical of that period, of the '60's. He went to school at a time when the characteristics, the teachings, the uprising the students was a normal thing. Now I don't know if anybody told you this or not, but I'd like to share it with you. The Muslim movement had really taken over St. Augustine. Their leader, anybody tell you that?

C: No.

P: The Muslim movement, I'm talking about the violent group, that's why I call them Mooselims and not Muslims, and the leader of the cult was a student on my campus. I had a conference with her

C: What was her name?

P: I prefer to not give her name because the fact that all of those youngsters were able to get jobs despite the law in the state of Florida that anybody who was engaged in a, in a uprising or that sort of thing would not be eligible for employment or attending schools. I have found the,



P: my board of trustees to meet with some white leaders and there was an agreement not to have television or radio. And they knew what would happen if radio or television showed up. Now how it got to happen, <sup>I don't</sup> know but when we sat down to have our meal in the courthouse, television came in, the radio came in and then the committee ended. One of the purposes of that meeting, the results of the purposes of that meeting would have led to some understandings which I think would have been an example for the whole state of Florida.

C: Who was there from the white community?

P: The main people who <sup>could</sup> speak.

C: Was Shelley there?

P: I do not recall if he was there.

C: Wasn't he the real obstacle because of his- such a John Birch follower and uh even though Wolf and the others wanted to end the crisis . . .

P: I have never been able to understand why a man whose, more than 50 percent of his life as a black was as far to to the the left or

C: Right.

P: Far to the right as he is, was, so much so until I never had a ny contact with him. I remember when they burnt up the brand new car that my minister at the First Baptist Church had, they called up to notify me that they were going to burn the two cars in my yard, my wifes car and mine, the car I used to drive. And I simply told them what would happen to them if they came on my private property. And there was an attempt to burn a cross on our campus, but we had 47 private citizens in <sup>our</sup> the campus, well armed and with the action that night, there was never any attempt made to bother our schools or COMMUNITY \_\_\_\_\_ as a matter of fact my college librarian <sup>took</sup> and three hundred dollars and \_\_\_\_\_

C: Did your students participate actively with King in the demonstrations in '64?

P: They were, <sup>the</sup> biggest main source.

C: And they cooperated with King on this?

P: They were bright students. It wasn't a question of cooperation. I stayed alone I was the president of the Institution. The student, I did that even at political activities, the student council, even in Miami and in St. Augustine. Any politician, \_\_\_\_\_ who was possibly one of the greatest senators in the state of Florida, uh would come to our campus, he would come at the invitation of the students. I would go to meet him, and I would want to attend. And men would know my position, but I never \_\_\_\_\_ I was like any other college president who ever was elected president or Governor. I felt the need to visit him and congratulate him and lay upon ~~for him~~ <sup>personal</sup> for him the importance of his contribution to the welfare <sup>of</sup> my institution

C: Now uh

P: And I had the good fortune as evidenced by the fact that I feel that <sup>when</sup> ~~in~~ governor Askew named me the first black to the Judicial Qualifications Commission in the state of Florida, and I remained there until it was necessary for me to leave. Ed James now, who was the chairman of the board of Commissioners of which I am a member is a member of that commission. Now that commission <sup>is the commission</sup> ~~needs the permission of~~ in charge BUSINESS Conduct of the state of Florida. And that to me was the icing on my experience in the state of Florida.

C: Did you ever meet with King or with Andrew Young?

P: All of them, all of them.

C: What was the nature of the conversations that you have had with them?

P: Never what their duty and responsibility was. It was always at the level of a professional. I invited Andrew Young to speak <sup>to</sup> the students, I invited King to speak to the students, I invited King to preach to the students.

C: I see, so it wasn't to discuss developments in St. Augustine?

P: Never, I never had anything, I never participated except I went to the public meetings. I don't remember, recall missing any public assembly which was called

P: by the SCLC. Because I felt that the non violent approach basically was more important, and the only time that I differed with Dr. King was when I had to tell him that I felt that anytime a movement leads to confrontation, it's time for the organizer to sit down and find out points at which this is responsible, what causes it and let's eliminate that. Now that's as far as I went and I spoke only to him.

C: Now you did testify though before the Florida Civil Rights Commission came to St. Augustine. I remember that, I've got records of the testimony before that, and you were very critical of conditions in St. Augustine when you testified at that time.

P: I would suspect that uh I would be critical at that time because when I employed a Chinese dean, the anti-American activities committee wanted my fingerprints, and I went to my attorney to find out why that was necessary, for an anti-American Activities Commission wanted to have my fingerprints because I hired a dean. I had asked the FBI, I <sup>had</sup> sought all the sources of information including CIA intelligence and FBI. Neither one of them would give me any information on this man, so I had every perfect right to move on my, on whatever I was able to work on. Now, I don't recall any of the leaders of the St. Augustine community like the Mayor or Mr. Harrell \_\_\_\_\_.

I don't remember \_\_\_\_\_ giving any negative remarks. I had the \_\_\_\_\_ on my board, the Executive Secretary Treasurer of the Florida Baptist Convention, Dr. John McGuire. I don't remember him being, giving any negative attitude towards the selection of John \_\_\_\_\_ (?).

C: What uh, why did, did you think when Dr. King left, that he left St. Augustine in bad shape?

P: Well,

C: Was it worse after he left than before?

P: Yes, it was worse, it was worse because the Ku Klux Klan was ACTING VIOLENT

C: Now this, it wasn't worse because of what Dr. King had done?

P: No

C: But rather because the white leaders refused to leave and let the Klan  
(talking together)

P: This is directly after MENOSI spoke over the television.

C: I see.

P: It, it upset the total community. And even those people who had come to the St. Augustine community to retire, I don't remember any of those people uh losing interest in the college. They came to vespers on Sundays just like they had been coming all the time. Because we without question had the best, the best speakers, the most intellectual cultured activities in the local community. And we invited all of the people <sup>who</sup> ~~that~~ we thought would come. I recall one experience that I had, I thought I knew a white minister well enough to \_\_\_\_\_ Dr. Channing Bias, who was head of the Colored Work Committee YMCA, by his residence to meet him, and I went through the service committee

C: This was under Seymour \_\_\_\_\_ wasn't it?

P: No, \_\_\_\_\_

C: Wasn't his name \_\_\_\_\_?

P: I, I'd have to hear it in order to remember it.

C: Did, were you asked to be on that biracial <sup>Committee</sup> that Governor Bryant tried to form?

P: No.

C: Now that thing failed, it never even was created.

P: NO, I was not asked to be on it.

C: Um hum, what uh, what did you think of Dr. Halings role at the end, as you look back on the . . .

P: As I look back on it I'll tell you what I told him. I told him, I told him sitting on the political chair, I said I can understand your point of view \_\_\_\_\_ but I think on account of the legal trip,

- P: I said you're not a Martin Luther King. I said you do more work dealing with people sitting right here in this chair if you keep your mouth shut. And they know the type of work that you can do \_\_\_\_\_
- He went from there to Cocoa, went crazy as far as I know.
- C: Right, he's still there, yes. What uh, what were race relations like after the fall of 1964 till when you left and went to college down in Miami? Did things ever improve again? Were they better after the . . .
- P: If they did, they didn't affect us at the school because it was between that time that they built a sidewalk all the way from the middle of town all the way out to the campus, they put lights all the way out to the campus, and they paved the street all the way out to the campus, and I think there was some attempt to rear a creative atmosphere in the black community that was wholesome. Now I think if you talk to some of the old citizens of the community for example like J. A. Webster who was responsible for that. He lives right there on Kings Road. Or Murray who is a retired principal who lives there. Now these are people with whom I worked. We worked together, to the end of resolving the racial strife in the community. I wasn't on the side at ever, the distance.
- C: Did you work with the Community Relations Service when they came in there?
- P: You'd have to call some names because I . . .
- C: Charles Grigg was one in Tallahassee.
- P: If I did I don't recall what happened except that he might have been to my office. I doubt if he had very much from me.
- C: Why didn't, why didn't the Catholic Church cooperate, do you have any understanding or knowledge of why they failed to say take an active role and help in the crisis because they were, certainly the most influential church ?
- C: Well I think it's possible at that time, and oddly enough \_\_\_\_\_

End of tape

(Tape ends in mid sentence)