

SRC-12

Julius Chambers

10 pages - Open

August 6, 2002

Pages 1-3: Julius Chambers was a board member of the Southern Regional Council (SRC) in the 1960s. Chambers remembers the role of the SRC as being a vehicle of change for improved race relations in the South.. Chambers believes the SRC's most effective roles were its ability to provide reliable information to the media, bring black and white people together to exchange ideas, and provide valuable resources for individuals involved with advocacy. Chambers describes the unique role women and African Americans played in the SRC.

Pages 4-7: Chambers discusses the Voter Education Project, its leaders and its successes in registering large numbers of African Americans to vote. Chambers remembers the SRC responding to the Black Power movement with concern over the tactics of the movement, but also with an appreciation for why people supported the ideas behind Black Power. The SRC modified their approach to the issues as southern politics began to change in the late 1960s and early 1970s. Chambers points to the issues of education, jobs, housing, and health care as examples of how the SRC changed as those issues changed through the courts and the legislature. Chamber recounts his role as the lawyer for the Swann plaintiffs in Charlotte for the *Swann v. Mecklenburg County* busing case. Chambers counters arguments that the SRC was too gradual in promoting change by describing the circumstances of the time, and pointing out the necessity of working within your environment.

Pages. 8-10: Chambers again points to SRC's ability to provide accurate data, bring black and white people together, and produce good leaders as the major contributions and achievements of the organization in the South. Chambers concludes that when evaluating the civil rights movement, historians must recognize the critical role the SRC played in educating black and white people, while also providing support to the individuals who played major roles in the movement.