

SRC- 13
Harry Bowie
14 pages- Open
November 20, 2002

Pages 1-6: Bowie explains how he was asked by George Esser to become associate director of the Southern Regional Council (SRC) at the same time Esser was becoming director of the SRC. Bowie describes the staff when he first came on board; who they were and what their personalities were like. Bowie explains how both genders and different races all had similar roles in the office; none were more represented than others. Bowie discusses the different programs the SRC was involved with when he came on staff. Bowie explains how the SRC's focus grew from electoral politics and Civil Rights towards education and economics in the 1970s. Bowie describes how his view of George Wallace, a third-party candidate, changed over time.

Pages 7-11: Bowie describes a meeting he went to that Vernon Jordan spoke at and how Jordan really impacted the way he thought things should be done. Bowie discusses the SRC's involvement with black politicians in the 1970s. Both Bowie and Susan Glisson, the interviewer, discuss Jan Hiligus and what she is doing now. Bowie describes his view on grass roots organizing, and the effect that had on society. He talks about the lawsuit Bill Gould, one of the foremost professors of labor law in the country, brought against the unions and how it broke upon the closed shops. He talks about being an activist and the problems it brought for the SRC. Bowie discusses the extent to which the SRC balanced pushing and changing with being careful.

Pages 11-12: Bowie talks about the financial situation of the SRC during the 1970s, and the wonderful fund-raising of George Esser. He talks about the restraints that were placed on the SRC by the foundations that funded their work and the process they had to go through to get approval for programs.

Pages 12-14: Bowie talks about the strengths and weaknesses of the SRC, and the role of the SRC in the struggle for freedom for African-Americans. He then tells a story about five blind men and the elephant. He uses the story to show that the SRC served many different functions and changed according to what the situation required.