

SRC 19 Summary- Jay Worrall
February 25, 2003

Jay Worrall starts out by giving his personal background (page 1). He tells of his first awareness of unfair treatment towards blacks, and the integration of the Army (pages 1-2). He talks about being elected president of the Fairfield Council on Human Relations (pages 2-4). He talks a little about the involvement of the American Friends Service Committee during the civil rights movement, specifically in Prince Edward County (pages 4-5). He talks about people he associated with and the efforts they made to convince people opposed to desegregation (pages 5-6). He tells how his daughter was blackballed from the high school in Petersburg [1965] (page 6).

Mr. Worrall talks about attitudes in Virginia after the 1955 *Brown* decision and the upsurge of massive resistance, along with the problems liberals faced (page 6). Next he talks about his role in Petersburg and the activities of his wife, Carolyn, including the start of the Friends of Petersburg group (pages 6-8). He talks about collaborating with black civil rights organizations and how black leaders felt about white liberals (pages 8-9). He then talks about the relationship between the Southern Regional Council (SRC) and the Human Relations Councils, mentioning a few people involved with the two organizations (pages 9-10). Mr. Worrall talks about harassment he experienced during the civil rights movement, and identifies the constituency of liberals in Petersburg (page 10).

Mr. Worrall discusses his move to Charlottesville in 1966, but goes back to clarify that he worked on an anti-poverty program while in Petersburg (page 11). He tells how his involvement with the council propelled him forward in his career with the army (pages 11-12). Next he talks about the situation in Charlottesville, and what form of activity he and his wife were involved in (pages 13-14). He discusses the emergence of the Black Power era, the response of white liberals, and the decline of black membership in the Councils for Human Relations (page 14).

He talks about Charlottesville when he arrived in 1966 (page 15). He talks about starting the Offender Aid and Restoration program (pages 15-16). Mr. Worrall states that black voting rights were a priority of his organizations and mentions steps they took to make it easier for black voters (page 16).

Mr. Worrall attempts to characterize the work of the Councils of Human Relations in Virginia (pages 16-17). He further describes his Offender Aid and Restoration program (pages 17-18). He talks about the criminal justice system's injustices in courts, and describes Robert Kennedy as a friend of the civil rights movement (page 18). He also mentions traveling with a theatrical group called "In White America" while in Petersburg in the mid 1960s (pages 18-19). He talks about Paul Gaston and his involvement in Charlottesville and on the Virginia Council for Human Relations (pages 19-20). He mentions the final director, Reverend Curtis Harris, and the demise of the Virginia Council (page 20). He begins to talk about the different directors of the council, and mentions the role of southern white women on the councils (pages 21-22).

Mr. Worrall concludes the interview by talking about his involvement in the Southern Leadership Program through a fellowship in 1970 (pages 22-23).