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SHELTON

SHELTON, WILLIAM T. (OH-152) 36pp./index PRCQ(M)

City Editor, Arkansas Gazette, at the time of the Little Rock, AR, school integration crisis, 1957-59.

DESCRIPTION: Personal and professional background; city editor of the Gazette in 1952; assigning reporters to cover the county; Shelton's feeling that the community would accept integration; publicity on the school board plan; White Citizens Council; disbelief at calling out the National Guard; news coverage on the day and the TV statement by Governor Faubus; Harry Ashmore and the Gazette split with Faubus; increasing national coverage; White Citizens Council leaders, Amis Guthridge, Wesley Pruden and Dr. (Malcom) Taylor; editorials against Faubus; national reporters in Little Rock; local reporters and their beats; comments on integration beginning at the high school level; the role of the mayor, local groups and churches; the economic effect; police leadership; the attitude of the community; coverage of the Negro community; involvement of Congressman Hays, his subsequent defeat in 1958 and the election of Dr. Alford; the closing of the high schools in 1958-59; the Women's Emergency Committee; changes since 1957; comments on the action of the President.

[Columbia University Oral History Project, interview by John Luter, December 1970]