



Transcript for Robert Brooks

Valinda Littlefield, Interviewer: What impact do you think teachers have had on the civil rights movement?

Mr. Robert Brooks: I think it's been quite limited. Originally because there were oppressions brought upon teachers and principles. I mean the burden was hard for them to try and walk a line where they did not criticize the administration, the administrators in power. They were threatened if they were members of the so called Improvement Society or NAACP and things of that type, so they walked a very cautious line and it wasn't until more recent following integration there were still pressure because a lot of teachers were afraid that if they were too strident and too civil rights oriented that there would be some threat upon them and their security. It does not mean that there were not teachers and principles who did try and help us all in an effort to try and get an equal education for our African American children.

Littlefield: So were you active in the civil rights movement indirectly or directly?

Brooks: Yeah, I did. Directly, I was a pastor, and NAACP president. My dad prior to '68 was an NAACP President and he had been so for years even through those trial times when principles and teachers could not participate. It was as if he took a part of the responsibility and tried to represent them as well as he could knowing that they were being threatened financially and all other kind of ways. So it sort of kind of carried over to me and I stayed pretty much with the NAACP all the years and supporting of it and its goals especially with respect to education in South Carolina which we're still struggling with.

End of Video.