

MS450_030

Interviewer: Bayor, Ronald H.

Interviewee: Flanagan, Robert B.

Interview date: 1985-12-03

Transcription date: 2014

Georgia Institute of Technology Archives, Ron Bayor Papers
(MS450)

RONALD BAYOR: First -- let's see -- I just wanted to get the
years you were NAACP Executive Secretary.

ROBERT FLANAGAN: OK, I was the Atlanta branch NAACP Executive
Secretary from 1967 until October of '68, and then I became
the Field Director for Georgia NAACP, until 1976. And then
in '78 I was elected President. Well, actually, I was
Field Director until '78, and then elected President.

BAYOR: Of the state.

FLANAGAN: Yeah, the state.

BAYOR: (inaudible)

FLANAGAN: [01:00] I was elected to the NAACP National Board last
April, the Board of Directors. Yeah.

BAYOR: (inaudible)

FLANAGAN: Seriously, [I'm going to give up the state?], bring a
young man, guy I know well, (inaudible) be an advisor to
the state.

BAYOR: I guess it takes a lot work.

FLANAGAN: Yeah. And you get burned out.

BAYOR: Yeah, (inaudible). (laughter)

FLANAGAN: (inaudible), burned out.

BAYOR: I wanted to go back to the late '60s. I came across a letter that you wrote in November of '67 to John Flanagan, who was Chairman of the Atlanta Zoning Committee.

FLANAGAN: Mm-hmm.

BAYOR: And it was in regard to placing another public housing project on the west side, [02:00] on [Sewell?] Road, and you said that this was the confirmation to the obvious attempt by the power structure to systematically relocate Atlanta's Negro citizens to the southwest and northwest sections of the city.

FLANAGAN: Mm-hmm.

BAYOR: Do you feel there was an attempt to do that, to, in a sense, to maintain segregated areas of the city?

FLANAGAN: Well, that was... An agreement was made between the black power structure and the white power structure in the '60s that blacks would take over all of southwest from Martin Luther King all the way out to the (inaudible) community. And that area was assigned to us. So when urban renewal [03:00] came about, you know, (inaudible) [and all of them around town?]. Courtland Street, where the Holiday Inn is now, and Hilton. Blacks were moved to the Perry Homes area, Carver Homes, you know, some places, and actually Perry Homes is up north, northwest. And they

built a lot of projects everywhere, Perry Homes specifically. And at that particular time I wrote that letter, a white company wanted more unity in Perry Homes, (inaudible). He [04:00] wasn't necessarily being a racist, but he was trying to build those apartments. I've forgotten the name (inaudible).

BAYOR: Oh, there's a fellow by the name of (inaudible).

FLANAGAN: Yeah. But anyway --

BAYOR: So there was an attempt to move blacks out of neighborhoods on the south side and move them over to the southwest?

FLANAGAN: Mm-hmm.

BAYOR: And why would the black community agree to it?

FLANAGAN: They agreed -- [it's not?] -- we had some leaders agree [to it?], saying that we need housing for our people, and we don't care [where it is?], we need housing. And I pointed out that Perry Homes specifically -- services were overtaxed, so its (inaudible) was already backing up. [05:00] And it just couldn't take anymore. And some of the black leaders got up and said, oh, we need (inaudible). And I think [I lost?] (inaudible). I think [they were unhappy with us?]. As a matter of fact, the YMCA, Butler Street YMCA had [one of the projects?]. [Mayes?],

President Mayes (inaudible) on the Board of Directors
(inaudible), they were all (inaudible).

BAYOR: He was on the Board of Directors of the...?

FLANAGAN: Of the Y.

BAYOR: Of the Y, yeah. Why wouldn't they just build them
down by the stadium? There's no real reason why the
stadium had to go there.

FLANAGAN: Well, the plan was that would buy them a place for the
stadium, and they wanted to get -- they wanted that land
over there (inaudible).

BAYOR: I heard from somebody else [06:00] that Ivan Allen's
original idea was to build the white projects down by the
stadium --

FLANAGAN: Mm-hmm.

BAYOR: -- and there were objections from the black community,
and so he built the stadium there instead and just shifted
the black community out someplace else.

FLANAGAN: Yeah.

BAYOR: So there wasn't really -- there was an attempt, then,
to relocate the black community out of the downtown area
and (inaudible).

FLANAGAN: (inaudible) the plans of development [ten years?]
before they made all of this business (inaudible), they
knew where it was going. So it was an attempt to move the

blacks out of near the stadium. Well, another reason came up for them to move the rest of the blacks away from the stadium, because they were having problems with blacks [throwing rocks?] and harassing cars that came in there, the affluent people coming in to watch one of the [games?].

BAYOR: [07:00] This is after the stadium was built.

FLANAGAN: Yeah, yeah. Then they decided to take the rest.

BAYOR: Well, there's still -- there's still some [public?] (inaudible).

FLANAGAN: (inaudible).

BAYOR: So I guess basically it was the black community's need for land --

FLANAGAN: Mm-hmm.

BAYOR: -- and the city's -- what, did the city say, "If you want -- if you want land, you better take it over in that area"?

FLANAGAN: And there was strong opposition from people in Buckhead and the other areas, the white areas of town. They didn't want any projects over there.

BAYOR: When I spoke to Ivan Allen, he mentioned something to the effect that the reason the housing was put in the southwest and northwest was because land was cheaper there and because it was more available than it would be up in the north. He gave an economic explanation.

FLANAGAN: Well, that is one, but there was also pressure from the white community.

BAYOR: How about the whites living in the southwest? Were they part of this agreement that was being made at all, about the properties being -- undergoing going to racial [08:00] transition?

FLANAGAN: No, they were not at the agreement. See, Ivan Allen initially tried to stop blacks from moving any further (inaudible), OK. (laughter) So [he's way?] over there. That's where the agreement was made. And there was a lot out where I lived. I moved out there in '68, and that was about 98% white. Within three years it was about 80, 85% black.

BAYOR: So the city knew this was going to happen, and they actually made agreements with various black leaders to allow this to happen --

FLANAGAN: Mm-hmm.

BAYOR: -- without the whites knowing about it.

FLANAGAN: I don't think they did, because the blockbusting thing, and everybody was talking about blockbusting, and there were efforts to stop blockbusting, in the white and black community, you know, [people say?] (inaudible) [09:00] [stuff like that?] (inaudible).

BAYOR: And [Seymour?] wasn't really against blockbusting.
They just...

FLANAGAN: I don't think they were.

BAYOR: They just -- OK. So they were -- so I guess the picture I get is they were trying to please the black community, that these whites were, in a sense, expendable.

FLANAGAN: Expendable. If you want to stay, OK, but if you don't want to stay, you can move out somewhere, and they did. And they moved down to areas like [Nancy Street?], and every two, three, (inaudible). (laughter)

BAYOR: I know (inaudible). (laughter)

FLANAGAN: And Cobb County, East Cobb, OK. So they didn't get [the property at home before they left?].

BAYOR: (inaudible). How about the -- who were the blacks that were in this agreement? Who were the black [leaders?]?

FLANAGAN: I was (inaudible). (inaudible) [10:00] [Eddie Calhoun?].

BAYOR: I've spoken to Robert Thompson. He seemed to be very involved in the housing.

FLANAGAN: Yeah, he was with HUD. Is he still -- I think he retired from HUD.

BAYOR: I think he still has an office.

FLANAGAN: (inaudible)?

BAYOR: Well, no, I think it's [economic opportunity?].

FLANAGAN: Oh, OK, yeah, yeah. He was [retired?] (inaudible).

BAYOR: Yeah.

FLANAGAN: And segregated within HUD, the Urban League.

BAYOR: Right, right. But none of these agreements were written out?. This was just verbal.

FLANAGAN: Yeah.

BAYOR: So basically they were giving you (inaudible) --

FLANAGAN: (inaudible)

BAYOR: Excuse me?

FLANAGAN: (inaudible)

BAYOR: [What was?]...? Well, that was happening anyway.

FLANAGAN: Yeah, that's right. As a matter of fact, I used to live on Ashby Street. [You know where Ashby is?] OK. We moved there in 1929. I was six months old. My father told me [11:00] that that was white at one time, all of that, Bankhead and West End and all of that. Blacks --

BAYOR: In the '20s, that's right.

FLANAGAN: Yeah, blacks were concentrated in south Atlanta. And then they moved through all the -- after south Atlanta, you see, and then to the [west side?].

BAYOR: Yeah, so south, then eastward, I guess, and then to the north, yeah. Well, again, there's still -- I guess there's still a black community south of the city --

FLANAGAN: Mm-hmm.

BAYOR: -- and a little bit of one left in the east, but I guess really most of it's shifted.

FLANAGAN: Right. Martin Luther King -- you know where Mozley Park is?

BAYOR: Oh, yeah.

FLANAGAN: That was the dividing point.

BAYOR: (inaudible)

FLANAGAN: [We?] stopped there. Right.

BAYOR: Right. And, of course, these... So, in other words -- so I guess after that -- after Allen, Mayor Allen agreed to this, then Mozley Park was no longer (overlapping dialogue; inaudible) --

FLANAGAN: That's right. They [jumped?] Mozley Park and went straight out to where I am, Peyton Park.

BAYOR: This is hard to think in relation, because it's nothing that [12:00] Ivan Allen would admit to, but it's a shame to hear that there was actually an agreement between the city and black leadership to move in certain directions. There was another part of this letter that you spoke about the [Sewell Road?] area. You said that the area next to -- the area next to the suggested public housing site is a good residential neighborhood open to blacks, every effort should be made to maintain racial

balance in that neighborhood. I was just curious, was there any kind of -- was it integrated at all? Was there an integrated (overlapping dialogue; inaudible) --

FLANAGAN: (overlapping dialogue; inaudible)

BAYOR: Let's see... You're speaking about the Sewell Road area.

FLANAGAN: OK.

BAYOR: And you said that every effort should be made to maintain racial balance in that neighborhood. Apparently there was a --

FLANAGAN: Yeah, OK, I'm talking about where I live.

BAYOR: OK. Was there an integrated neighborhood?

FLANAGAN: Yeah.

BAYOR: [How long?]?

FLANAGAN: [13:00] We're talking about -- I mean, I'm writing in '67, that's when we first started moving out there. It was (loud noise; inaudible). I had... In 1970, that's when (inaudible).

BAYOR: Well, was there any effort on the part of the city to maintain it as an integrated neighborhood?

FLANAGAN: Supposedly. Now, when I say that, what does that mean, "supposedly"? There was an organization called SWAP, (inaudible), and that was a biracial group. The city encouraged that, which I think the city [didn't care?], you

know, [integration?]. They didn't actively promote whites moving out [14:00] [during that time?]. I think they felt that they were (inaudible).

BAYOR: Well, if they supported SWAP, how would they have agreed to give this land over to the black community?

FLANAGAN: (inaudible)

BAYOR: Oh, they supported SWAP before?

FLANAGAN: They agreed to that before SWAP was organized. SWAP was organized when blacks started moving in to [Cascade Place?].

BAYOR: So the city was really already committed to giving that land up.

FLANAGAN: Yeah, uh-huh.

BAYOR: But yet, I guess they had to get sort of a token --

FLANAGAN: Token... Yeah, so that's what [I would say?].

(inaudible). (laughter) I forget what I said, "apparently" or "obviously" or whatever.

BAYOR: No, that's interesting. You know, again, that's the type of thing you don't find in --

FLANAGAN: You go through the motions, you know, and they went through the motions. But that was -- the only thing they wanted to do was (inaudible) the people out in [Oxford?] and east [of there?].

BAYOR: Those were their (inaudible).

FLANAGAN: Yeah.

BAYOR: [15:00] (inaudible) -- I guess the whites on the southwest didn't really vote for Allen anyway, so...

FLANAGAN: That's right, and... Then you had whites in some (inaudible) homes over there. Blacks could move into those homes. (inaudible).

BAYOR: Interesting. OK. Well, you already answered that. I was curious about the black --

FLANAGAN: Where did you get that letter?

BAYOR: Oh, some files I came across. I don't know. It might've been Southern Regional Council. I'm going through their papers, but it's something that I'm not exactly sure where... [It was just a letter?]. (laughter)

FLANAGAN: Yeah, yeah. I (inaudible). [16:00] (inaudible). And (inaudible). [Even Allen?] got up a map up there, and he didn't have what was there now, you know, (inaudible) the building. (laughter) [He had to say?], "We're going to put two here and one there. See, we're spreading this around!" And I said, "Well, how many units do you have in Perry Homes right now?" And I named them all. (laughter) Perry Homes, [backed up sewage is a mess?], there is crime and everything else. I said, "You ought to mix these blacks up, low income people up all around town, keep them from being together, and so you want to enhance them and make

them better, put them out there where they can see some things. (inaudible) all together."

BAYOR: Do you think it was -- this whole feeling [17:00] around [parks?], do you think it was more against poor people or more against blacks, or --

FLANAGAN: It was poor.

BAYOR: [Both?]. OK. Well, I mean, [Sullivan, he'd already sold Victory?] to the black community, so he, too, was not even pushing the [scattered site?] (inaudible). He wasn't...

FLANAGAN: (inaudible), because [Lemays?] was (inaudible), he used the same rationale as (inaudible). "Well, we have to put them somewhere. They need homes. This man here wants to put some apartments out there (inaudible)." They said, "Well, let's go find them homes first." And so we took that position.

BAYOR: And that was [fateful decision?].

FLANAGAN: Mm-hmm.

BAYOR: OK, I'm going to just [18:00] get on to another thing, then. When Maynard Jackson was elected in 1973, I was curious what changes that you think a black man brought to the city. In other words, what difference do you see in his administration as opposed to the Hartsfield/Allen period in terms of the black community?

FLANAGAN: As far as integrating the city hall, he completely did that, as well as (inaudible), department heads, police department.

BAYOR: Well, that was integrated earlier.

FLANAGAN: Yeah, integrated, but not (inaudible) chief (inaudible). (inaudible). For Atlanta he was [the type of guy?] [19:00] [that?] (inaudible) worked for (inaudible). (inaudible) [hits you over the head?] every time [you come up with an idea he disagreed with?]. And so (inaudible) find out what the hell he wants, [and give it to him?].

BAYOR: [That's right?], [want to keep it together?].

(laughter)

FLANAGAN: (laughter) [Man?] in particular, you know, (inaudible) embarrass you and... And then (inaudible).

BAYOR: (inaudible)

FLANAGAN: Yeah, they say he's a [ticket?]. (laughter)

BAYOR: Well, he's the only former mayor I haven't been able to get an interview.

FLANAGAN: Is that right?

BAYOR: I guess he does not want to talk about -- I don't know why.

FLANAGAN: I wonder why. Did you tell him why you were doing this?

BAYOR: Oh, yeah. Yeah, wrote him a letter, spoke to the secretary.

FLANAGAN: (inaudible). [20:00] See, [Maynard?] was an older fellow. Most of the people who got those contracts (inaudible). It could've been handled differently wherein (inaudible) [Roy Johnson, Jesse Hill would handle it?] (inaudible).

BAYOR: Yeah, a little smoother.

FLANAGAN: A little smoother, but Maynard (inaudible). And so they said, by God, we're going to do this, but that's all we're going to do.

BAYOR: So the white community really formed -- the white business community pretty much (inaudible).

FLANAGAN: Yeah.

BAYOR: [21:00] [And anything?] in terms of housing? Was there any kind of sense that he was helping with housing [in the city]?

FLANAGAN: (inaudible) even though we still had dirt poor community relations (inaudible).

BAYOR: Public housing, right?

FLANAGAN: Yeah. As well as to try to forestall blockbusting.

BAYOR: By the time Massell's [last year?], was there a greater sense of supporting integrated neighborhoods at all? [It wasn't too?] -- [it was pretty much?] --

FLANAGAN: [There was?].

BAYOR: Some?

FLANAGAN: Well, integrated housing, it was... Yeah, that got progressively better [22:00] after, you know, Ivan Allen in southwest Atlanta and so forth, pockets of Midtown, some parts of Peachtree (inaudible).

BAYOR: I was just surprised, you know, Jackson didn't want to talk because I think he'd be proud of what he did.

FLANAGAN: [He should be?].

BAYOR: (overlapping dialogue; inaudible)

FLANAGAN: (overlapping dialogue; inaudible) [he's boasting?] and (inaudible), (laughter) you know, [he's talking about?] what he did.

BAYOR: I spoke to (inaudible)'s office, and I set up a meeting with him, so... But he doesn't want to talk to anybody, I guess.

FLANAGAN: No. (laughter) (inaudible) [put him in a corner?], (laughter) you know. They said (inaudible). (laughter) They said the same thing about Maynard and Leroy Johnson. I remember they drove Maynard out to Perry Homes, Bankhead Apartments, (inaudible). [23:00] And he -- they [called him out?] (inaudible). [We turned that thing around?] (inaudible) [support him on something?], you know, (inaudible). He left there with, you know...

BAYOR: (inaudible). (laughter) He handles people very well.

FLANAGAN: Mm-hmm.

BAYOR: OK. Back to the 1960s again. The students had gone on strike in '61. Was there any kind of split in the black community over that, over that approach to...?

FLANAGAN: Yeah, there was a split. (inaudible)

BAYOR: [24:00] (inaudible) white community?

FLANAGAN: Yeah, I [remember?] Martin King, Sr., and some of those other power brokers for the blacks.

BAYOR: They weren't sure how fast things should go, I guess. Actually, I was surprised in '73 that Warren Cochrane and Scott didn't support Jackson for the mayor's position.

FLANAGAN: Well, Warren (inaudible) [Republican?].

BAYOR: Yeah, he told me many times. (laughter)

FLANAGAN: Yeah. (laughter)

BAYOR: He's sure Republican.

FLANAGAN: (inaudible). Well, it's not up to him (inaudible). I don't think he thought it was fair [for black people?].

BAYOR: Yes, that's pretty much what he said.

FLANAGAN: (inaudible)

BAYOR: But he -- I guess he was a very small [25:00] viewpoint in the community.

FLANAGAN: Yeah, I mean... Nobody ever thought that. I don't think Warren thought that. Well --

BAYOR: You mean (inaudible) he told me that [his property he sold to?] Jackson (inaudible).

FLANAGAN: (inaudible).

BAYOR: I was also curious about the NAACP efforts in the [lead-up?] to school desegregation. I know there were -- there was opposition to the initial integration of the schools back in '61, but I'm curious more about the period after the [token?] integration. What was the reaction from the Atlanta Board of Education? How was this opposed?

FLANAGAN: Which [dates?] are you talking?

BAYOR: Sixties. Sixties, after the Atlanta schools were openly integrated. After that, I'm just curious what the Board -- what the Atlanta Board of Education did to [26:00] prevent more integration, because obviously [it didn't happen?].

FLANAGAN: Well, they didn't support (inaudible). And (inaudible) really wanted school segregation (inaudible). They (inaudible) [in the name of freedom of choice?]. [Whereas?] -- and they sent notices (inaudible). But [in my view?], [you know?], (inaudible) if you really want it, you don't [give them that choice?]. You get your administrative people [27:00] (inaudible) and [decide?]. And had they done that, we wouldn't have had this mass

exodus. What happened was -- you've read about the Atlanta compromise?

BAYOR: Yeah, blacks --

FLANAGAN: That was in '71.

BAYOR: To get some positions in the school administration?

FLANAGAN: [This was during?] (inaudible). The Atlanta branch, I was still directing [28:00] the Atlanta branch (inaudible).

BAYOR: (inaudible)

FLANAGAN: And...

BAYOR: That was part of the agreement, (inaudible)?

FLANAGAN: Mm-hmm, from about (inaudible). So (inaudible)

[reasonable?] (inaudible). (inaudible) [29:00] supportive (inaudible). She met with... She says that she called [Larry Wilkins?] and told him of this, and that he said OK. The Board of Directors (inaudible) asked him what is going on here. And he said that he did not agree (inaudible) Wilkinson (inaudible). He issued (inaudible). We were for total integration, and we felt that busing and... So (inaudible) [30:00]. They suspended (inaudible). And it was conducted by [Sam Fulton?] (inaudible). And they had -- I think they reached an impasse wherein who said what -- and a lot of them were getting a little senile at that point. And they said, "What happened?" I -- what I suspect that he said was -- you see, when you have your

field person out there and you're running an operation --
(inaudible) reputation (inaudible) -- [31:00] then she ran
that by him, and she was (inaudible). He might've slanted
it that way. (laughter) So we don't know.

BAYOR: Probably should've been in writing, since it was...

FLANAGAN: Yeah. But the thing about it, he told her -- and the
board told her to recant, and she wouldn't. So the Atlanta
[brass?] wasn't needed.

BAYOR: So the [promise was effective?].

FLANAGAN: Yeah.

BAYOR: So in other words, you got -- you got the -- 50% of
the, of the Board of Ed --

FLANAGAN: Mm-hmm.

BAYOR: -- but [in a sense?] were made (inaudible) --

FLANAGAN: (inaudible)

BAYOR: -- yeah, (inaudible) needed.

FLANAGAN: But looking at it [from this particular point?], the
Atlanta public schools [32:00] (inaudible) reading
(overlapping dialogue; inaudible) --

BAYOR: Yeah, they [disposed of her?], yeah, yeah.

FLANAGAN: -- (overlapping dialogue; inaudible). There might be
some argument that the black teachers know how to teach
black students, or had a greater concern than (inaudible).
From that time up until the [segregation?], based on what

we're finding out in integrated classrooms throughout
Georgia --

BAYOR: Was there -- well, I guess by this time black teachers
were on the same pay scale as whites.

FLANAGAN: Yeah.

BAYOR: Because before they weren't, if I remember correctly.

FLANAGAN: (inaudible) [33:00] was a regular teacher, but he made
--

BAYOR: What year -- what year was that about?

FLANAGAN: Oh, sorry. That was '50, '51, (inaudible).

BAYOR: Was there any effort made to move black teachers away
from just all black schools at all? I mean, (inaudible)
integrate [both?] teaching [forms?] after a couple months?

FLANAGAN: In certain select areas, southwest.

BAYOR: You mean those areas that were already through
transition?

FLANAGAN: They already had white schools, white people out there
that [might be able?], Southwest High -- you know, West
Manor Elementary School.

BAYOR: So there were still, in other words, transitional
areas. How about putting black teachers up in Buckhead,
or...?

FLANAGAN: One or two.

BAYOR: OK.

FLANAGAN: Just to show (inaudible)... [We found?].... [I remember?] (inaudible) [might be?] (inaudible), [34:00] (inaudible) lighter teachers, put them (inaudible) shop, you know, (inaudible). The students might not -- [then?] might not be [as fresh?].

BAYOR: Strange. (laughter)

FLANAGAN: Yeah, strange.

BAYOR: Strange thinking. How about the building of schools? I had heard -- I'm not sure this is true or not, but I had heard in the transitional neighborhoods that the school board allowed the schools in that area to deteriorate, and thereby, again, trying to get the whites out of that area.

FLANAGAN: (inaudible)

BAYOR: How about the building of new schools, after the '54 decision? Were there any efforts to --

FLANAGAN: Oh, yeah, yeah.

BAYOR: OK.

FLANAGAN: The would bring them up to par.

BAYOR: Right, so you would stay where you are.

FLANAGAN: That's right, [35:00] so they could make an argument in court, too.

BAYOR: Yeah. What sort of things, renovations?

FLANAGAN: Renovations, equipment. (inaudible). [We didn't have?] (inaudible) [credential?] (inaudible). And [the

books?]. [These days?], something (inaudible) old books, you know, and they got the new books, we got the old books.

BAYOR: Yeah, yeah. So now you began to get the new books?

FLANAGAN: Yeah.

BAYOR: New equipment?

FLANAGAN: New equipment, new books.

BAYOR: New schools?

FLANAGAN: And new schools.

BAYOR: They began building some new schools out there?

FLANAGAN: Mm-hmm.

BAYOR: So, in other words, they finally tried to deal with the overcrowding (inaudible) sessions.

FLANAGAN: We had horrible crowding at West End High when I was there. Yeah, (inaudible) [afterwards?]. [36:00] You see, in some counties that had high schools, they made arrangements -- you're talking about busing -- (inaudible) -- we had students [probably?] (inaudible), [Newnan?], (inaudible).

BAYOR: Yeah, so (overlapping dialogue; inaudible) --

FLANAGAN: (overlapping dialogue; inaudible). (inaudible).

BAYOR: Actually, another thing I'd read, there was apparently very few school buses [with lots of?] black kids.

FLANAGAN: That's right.

BAYOR: In other words, they didn't care [if they went to school?].

FLANAGAN: No, (inaudible) were [poor?], [old poor boys?], you know, [all the?] (inaudible).

BAYOR: Yeah.

FLANAGAN: They had to get over there by streetcar, walk, (inaudible). (inaudible). No system, systematic --

BAYOR: So the city didn't really care who went to school, (inaudible).

FLANAGAN: Yeah.

BAYOR: You were there --

FLANAGAN: You [get on the bus?] or [I gave you this much?].

[Ashby Street?] School -- you've heard of Ashby Street?

BAYOR: Yeah, yeah.

FLANAGAN: [37:00] Did you know there was an agreement when they turned that school over to blacks that they would (inaudible) from [Ashby?] Street [in?]?

BAYOR: (inaudible). Oh, wow, because Ashby Street itself was still white?

FLANAGAN: Yeah, it was still white.

BAYOR: And blacks would come in there.

FLANAGAN: Well...

BAYOR: So (inaudible) district (inaudible).

FLANAGAN: [Well, we're going to talk about?] (inaudible).

BAYOR: What was the Ashby Street school? What is the school?

FLANAGAN: Oh, [thirties?].

BAYOR: [Thirties?]. I see.

FLANAGAN: Yeah, I went there in the first grade.

BAYOR: And pretty much when you were going to school your
teachers were [black, too?].

FLANAGAN: Oh, yeah.

BAYOR: (inaudible)

FLANAGAN: (inaudible) white teachers (inaudible).

BAYOR: And they --

FLANAGAN: (inaudible)

BAYOR: -- (inaudible) high school, and [38:00] once you [get
to a?] white teacher, I guess (inaudible) began to change.

FLANAGAN: Mm-hmm.

BAYOR: So that would [mean at least until the '50s?]

(inaudible) white teacher.

FLANAGAN: Well, '51.

BAYOR: (inaudible)

FLANAGAN: Yeah, '54 (inaudible) they say go slow, (inaudible),
but there was, you know...

BAYOR: So it isn't until after the student body is integrated
that the teachers are also integrated. I see. All right.
Just as a sort of last point, I was curious about other

major issues of the NAACP in the '60s, (inaudible)
segregation.

FLANAGAN: Police brutality.

BAYOR: How was the city's response to that?

FLANAGAN: I wrote a letter to (inaudible) [Vernon?] from --

BAYOR: (inaudible)

FLANAGAN: -- (inaudible), and (inaudible) [39:00] (inaudible).
(inaudible) today (inaudible).

BAYOR: [Any city's?] (inaudible), yeah.

FLANAGAN: (inaudible). And so they [did that?] by bringing in
(inaudible) and (inaudible). You know, they brought in
(inaudible).

BAYOR: Yeah.

FLANAGAN: (inaudible) sort of a model of (inaudible).

BAYOR: [Equalizing?] change (inaudible).

FLANAGAN: Yeah. (inaudible).

BAYOR: Yeah. I guess also [40:00] [black?] (inaudible)
during the '60s (inaudible).

FLANAGAN: Yeah, [that's true?].

BAYOR: OK. Well, did King, Jr. at all get involved in the
Atlanta [community?]?

FLANAGAN: Not as much, no. He tried to get involved in the
Atlanta school situation [in the '60s?], and (inaudible).
And everybody [voted?] (inaudible). And [everybody voted?]

[except?] (inaudible), [which?] (inaudible). [And?]
(inaudible). [41:00] (inaudible) [walk in?], (inaudible).
We didn't want him in Atlanta, (inaudible). And he backed
off.

BAYOR: He pretty much kept out of Atlanta (inaudible).

FLANAGAN: He did some, you know, [riches?] --

BAYOR: Oh, yeah, the [signal?] stuff, yeah, yeah. Well,
that's (inaudible). Was there any kind of -- I don't know
if you're familiar at all with the whole MARTA
construction. Was there any kind of racial aspect to that
at all, as to where they put the first lines, and
(inaudible) the black community [to that?] at all?

FLANAGAN: Well, you know, Perry Homes (inaudible) [transport?].
That was (inaudible) -- about five years ago they started
to [give?] the north/south priority over (inaudible)
[42:00] (inaudible). And they said [if you go to?] -- [if
you go to?] (inaudible) --

BAYOR: This is the [black community saying?] --

FLANAGAN: Yeah, this is (inaudible). That's not going to work,
a spur to there.

BAYOR: [No, it isn't?]. Well, but then again, the first
lines did go --

FLANAGAN: [Outbound?].

BAYOR: -- east/west.

FLANAGAN: East/west.

BAYOR: So in terms of that, I guess (inaudible) kept their
promise, you know?

FLANAGAN: (inaudible) and hiring for (inaudible).

BAYOR: All very interesting. [43:00]

FLANAGAN: Yeah.

END OF AUDIO FILE