

Finding Aid to The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Richard Fairley

Overview of the Collection

Repository:	The HistoryMakers®1900 S. Michigan Avenue Chicago, Illinois 60616 info@thehistorymakers.com www.thehistorymakers.com
Creator:	Fairley, Richard L., 1933-2006
Title:	The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with Richard Fairley,
Dates:	June 1, 2003
Bulk Dates:	2003
Physical Description:	8 Betacame SP videocassettes (3:52:03).
Abstract:	Federal education executive Richard Fairley (1933 - 2006) worked for the U.S. Department of Education for thirty years, and helped to desegregate Mississippi Public Schools. Fairley was interviewed by The HistoryMakers® on June 1, 2003, in Annapolis, Maryland. This collection is comprised of the original video footage of the interview.
Identification:	A2003_114
Language:	The interview and records are in English.

Biographical Note by The HistoryMakers®

The son of a minister and a teacher, Richard “Dick” Fairley was born in Washington, D.C., on July 16, 1933. Fairley earned his B.A. degree from Dartmouth College in Hanover, New Hampshire, in 1955, and went to the University of Minnesota Graduate School in 1960. Later, Fairley earned his M.A. degree from Stanford University in 1969, and his Ed.D. from the University of Massachusetts in 1974.

Following his graduation from Dartmouth, Fairley went to work as a teacher in the Washington, D.C., public schools. In 1961, Fairley relocated to New York where

he served as a lecturer at the Department of Defense Staff College in Brooklyn. In that capacity, Fairley served as an instructor to key government officials from across the United States. In 1964, Fairley joined the staff of the U.S. Department of Education where he held several executive positions. As Deputy Assistant Secretary and Director of Higher Education, Fairley administered thirty-five higher-education programs targeted at 3,400 colleges and universities. Fairley served as executive director to two oversight boards appointed by the President of the United States. As regional director for the Office of Education's Civil Rights Division, Fairley negotiated the integration of the University of Alabama football team; developed the desegregation plans, later upheld by the Supreme Court, which eliminated de facto segregation in Mississippi; and set the timetable for desegregation in the seventeen southern states. Completing federal service at the Agency for International Development, Fairley served as the executive director of the University Center, where he developed educational linkages between American universities and universities in developing nations.

Fairley was honored by many organizations, including: numerous citations for Outstanding Service from the Department of Education; the Bill Cosby National Leadership Award; the Office of Education's Equal Opportunity Achievement Award; the National Association of State and Federal Programs Presidential Award; and upon his retirement from federal government, a citation for Outstanding Service from the U.S. Secretary of Education. Fairley served as a fellow at the University of Minnesota, and was named a U.S. Office of Education Fellow and received a National Institute of Public Affairs Award Fellowship. He was also awarded honorary doctorate degrees from Rust and St. Paul Colleges. Fairley facilitated the founding of the National Coalition of Title I Parents; established three scholarship assistance programs for opportunity-deprived students; and created and raised hundreds of thousands of dollars for homework kits given to urban youngsters to assist them in completing homework assignments.

Fairley was a member of many boards, including the Maryland Advisory Council for the U.S. Civil Rights Commission; the International Association for Continuing Education and Training; the Target Store Education Advisory Board; and the National Urban League Education Committee.

Fairley founded and served as president of CRF & Associates, an educational consulting firm.

Fairley and his wife, Charlestine, lived in Annapolis, Maryland. Richard "Dick" Fairley passed away on July 24, 2006 at the age of seventy-three.

Scope and Content

This life oral history interview with Richard Fairley was conducted by Julieanna L. Richardson on June 1, 2003, in Annapolis, Maryland, and was recorded on 8 Betacame SP videocassettes. Federal education executive Richard Fairley (1933 - 2006) worked for the U.S. Department of Education for thirty years, and helped to desegregate Mississippi Public Schools.

Restrictions

Restrictions on Access

Restrictions may be applied on a case-by-case basis at the discretion of The HistoryMakers®.

Restrictions on Use

All use of materials and use credits must be pre-approved by The HistoryMakers®. Appropriate credit must be given. Copyright is held by The HistoryMakers®.

Related Material

Information about the administrative functions involved in scheduling, researching, and producing the interview, as well as correspondence with the interview subject is stored electronically both on The HistoryMakers® server and in two databases maintained by The HistoryMakers®, though this information is not included in this finding aid.

Controlled Access Terms

This interview collection is indexed under the following controlled access subject terms.

Persons:

Fairley, Richard L., 1933-2006

Richardson, Julieanna L. (Interviewer)

Hickey, Matthew (Videographer)

Subjects:

African Americans--Interviews

Fairley, Richard L., 1933-2006--Interviews

Organizations:

HistoryMakers® (Video oral history collection)

The HistoryMakers® African American Video Oral History Collection

United States. Dept. of Education

Occupations:

Federal Education Executive

HistoryMakers® Category:

EducationMakers

Administrative Information

Custodial History

Interview footage was recorded by The HistoryMakers®. All rights to the interview have been transferred to The HistoryMakers® by the interview subject through a signed interview release form. Signed interview release forms have been deposited with Jenner & Block, LLP, Chicago.

Preferred Citation

The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with Richard Fairley, June 1, 2003. The HistoryMakers® African American Video Oral History Collection, 1900 S. Michigan Avenue, Chicago, Illinois.

Processing Information

This interview collection was processed and encoded on 2/5/2020 by The HistoryMakers® staff. The finding aid was created adhering to the following standards: DACS, AACR2, and the Oral History Cataloging Manual (Matters 1995).

Other Finding Aid

A Microsoft Access contact database and a FileMaker Pro tracking database, both maintained by The HistoryMakers®, keep track of the administrative functions involved in scheduling, researching, and producing the interview.

Detailed Description of the Collection

Series I: Original Interview Footage

Video Oral History Interview with Richard Fairley, Section
A2003_114_001_001, TRT: 0:31:05 2003/06/01

Educator and administrator Richard Fairley begins by describing his childhood in Washington D.C., describing his segregated neighborhood. He details the richness of his early secondary school years at the Banneker School and later Dunbar, Washington's famed school for future black leaders. Fairley also discusses his parents' backgrounds and education at Oberlin College and Lincoln University.

Video Oral History Interview with Richard Fairley, Section
A2003_114_001_002, TRT: 0:31:15 2003/06/01

Educator and administrator Richard Fairley details his high school years at Dunbar High School in Washington, D.C., describing the high expectations at the school and telling of his favorite activities. He also discusses

Dunbar's status in the black community. Fairley then explains his decision to attend Dartmouth College. He describes his adjustment to an integrated environment and talks about his feelings of isolation. Fairley also tells of his academic adjustment to the rigors of Dartmouth.

Video Oral History Interview with Richard Fairley, Section
A2003_114_001_003, TRT: 0:29:54 2003/06/01

Educator and administrator Richard Fairley details his collegiate experiences at Dartmouth, focusing on the social and racial atmosphere. He talks about joining a Jewish fraternity and shares his encounters with racism while traveling with his basketball teammates. Fairley discusses his experience in the ROTC and Army, sharing the lessons he learned about his resiliency in the face of racism. He also recounts returning to Washington, D.C. to teach in public school after graduation.

Video Oral History Interview with Richard Fairley, Section
A2003_114_001_004, TRT: 0:29:41 2003/06/01

Educator and administrator Richard Fairley details his collegiate experiences at Dartmouth, focusing on the social and racial atmosphere. He talks about joining a Jewish fraternity and shares his encounters with racism while traveling with his basketball teammates. Fairley discusses his experience in the ROTC and Army, sharing the lessons he learned about his resiliency in the face of racism. He also recounts returning to Washington, D.C. to teach in public school after graduation.

Video Oral History Interview with Richard Fairley, Section
A2003_114_001_005, TRT: 0:29:27 2003/06/01

Educator and administrator Richard Fairley reviews his career with the U.S. Department of Education and details problems faced while facilitating the desegregation of schools in the South, including institutional racism, de facto segregation, and uncooperative administrators. Fairley explains how de facto segregation remains a problem and evaluates his career accomplishments, explaining the importance of parental participation in education.

Video Oral History Interview with Richard Fairley, Section
A2003_114_001_006, TRT: 0:29:30 2003/06/01

Educator and administrator Richard Fairley discusses his appointment as Deputy Assistant Secretary for Education and his efforts to uplift Historically Black Colleges and Universities. He discusses the distinct problems facing HBCUs and comments on their importance and future. Fairley then describes his work with the United States Agency for International Development and discusses contemporary problems in public education.

Video Oral History Interview with Richard Fairley, Section
A2003_114_001_007, TRT: 0:27:20 2003/06/01

Educator and administrator Richard Fairley talks about joining forces with Don King to provide underprivileged children with homework kits to aid them in their schoolwork. He also opines on standardized testing and its effects on black children. He reflects on his career and discusses the impact of the 'Brown v. Board of Education' Supreme Court case. Finally, Fairley contemplates his legacy and shares his hopes and concerns for the black community.

Video Oral History Interview with Richard Fairley, Section
A2003_114_001_008, TRT: 0:23:51 2003/06/01