

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25

CITY OF LAWRENCE, KANSAS

LAWRENCE FAIR HOUSING ORDINANCE
50th ANNIVERSARY ORAL HISTORY PROJECT

Interview of Robert Casad

October 24, 2016

1 **MR. ARNOLD:** Today is October 24th, 2016. I
2 am local historian Tom Arnold interviewing Dr.
3 Robert Casad in his apartment at Presbyterian
4 Manor in Lawrence, Kansas, for the City of
5 Lawrence Fair Housing Ordinance 50th Anniversary
6 Oral History Project.

7 At the time the ordinance passed in July,
8 1967, Dr. Casad was a law professor on the faculty
9 of the University of Kansas Law School in
10 Lawrence.

11 Sir, to start off why don't you just tell me
12 a little bit about your background, you don't have
13 to go into too much detail and what you were doing
14 in Lawrence in the mid to late 1960s.

15 **DR. CASAD:** Well, I came here from law
16 practice in Minnesota to be on the faculty. I had
17 been at the University of Kansas as a student, got
18 my A.B. and M.A. here, and then went to Michigan
19 Law School and practiced law briefly in Minnesota,
20 and the opportunity to become a professor opened
21 up and I came down here. It was an opportunity to
22 come back to a place that I liked. I am a native
23 Kansan and have spent virtually all my life here.

24 What else would you --

25 (14:35:43)

1 **MR. ARNOLD:** So by the mid 1960s you were
2 actually a professor teaching law at the law
3 school at K.U.?

4 **DR. CASAD:** Yes.

5 **MR. ARNOLD:** Okay, great. How would you
6 describe the city at that time, in the '50s and
7 '60s, and the racial environment and what forms of
8 discrimination were apparent?

9 **DR. CASAD:** Well, of course it was much
10 smaller, and as far as the racial environment,
11 there was segregation in movie theaters. Well,
12 that had pretty much vanished by the late '60s.
13 That is something we accomplished in student
14 politics when we were students, we got them to at
15 least allow black people to attend movie theaters
16 that did not have balconies, and that was an
17 accomplishment then.

18 But there was a swimming pool here in
19 Lawrence, and I believe it was a municipal
20 swimming pool, but when agitation began for racial
21 equality I believe they sold the swimming pool to
22 private enterprise so that they wouldn't be forced
23 to desegregate the swimming pool. At the time
24 Ottawa had a swimming pool and Baldwin had a
25 public swimming pool, neither of which were

1 segregated, but Lawrence was segregated.

2 I don't think the schools were technically
3 segregated, although virtually all of the black
4 students went to either Pinckney or Woodlawn or
5 New York School, grade schools. I don't really
6 know much about the junior highs. I'm trying to
7 think. I think there was only one junior high at
8 that time, just trying to think. Yes, I think
9 West and South and Central Junior Highs were
10 organized somewhat later, as I recall, but I'm not
11 positive about the dates. They may have been
12 already existing by 1960.

13 The high school was not segregated, although
14 seems to me that black students were discouraged
15 from participating in the athletic events because
16 I rarely saw them performing for Lawrence High.

17 The high school I went to in Wichita was not
18 segregated, although the grade schools in Wichita
19 were segregated up until the eighth grade and
20 after that -- no, up until the ninth grade. After
21 that they, black students, went to the public high
22 schools, there were two then in Wichita, North and
23 East, but Lawrence was surprisingly very racially
24 segregated at that time.

25 You would think a city founded by the

1 abolitionists would have been much more willing to
2 be in the forefront of desegregation, but Lawrence
3 wasn't, and there was great resistance to
4 ultimately building a public swimming pool for
5 that principal reason. We had to have a similar
6 campaign to get a public swimming pool in
7 Lawrence.

8 (14:40:38)

9 **MR. ARNOLD:** Right. The first protests
10 regarding the swimming pool were in 1960 and a
11 group that was involved with those protests, or at
12 least was advising the African-American groups who
13 were protesting, was the Lawrence League for the
14 Promotion of Democracy. Were you involved with
15 that organization? It was kind of a social
16 justice activist league.

17 **DR. CASAD:** No, I wasn't.

18 **MR. ARNOLD:** Okay.

19 **DR. CASAD:** My involvement was just my
20 personal beliefs and the fact that my wife was
21 actively involved in the Lawrence United Church
22 Women.

23 **MR. ARNOLD:** Right.

24 **DR. CASAD:** And they were actively involved
25 in trying to promote racial desegregation in

1 Lawrence.

2 (14:41:35)

3 **MR. ARNOLD:** Right. Now, you had mentioned
4 that most of the African-American students went
5 to, in elementary school, Woodlawn, which is in
6 North Lawrence, New York, which is in East
7 Lawrence, and then Pinckney, which serves parts of
8 the Pinckney neighborhood in Old West Lawrence, so
9 it was pretty evident in terms of segregation that
10 those were the areas --

11 **DR. CASAD:** Yes, uh-huh.

12 **MR. ARNOLD:** -- where the majority of
13 African-Americans lived.

14 **DR. CASAD:** Residential, there was de facto
15 residential segregation.

16 (14:42:02)

17 **MR. ARNOLD:** Right. Now, to a significant
18 degree that segregation was sustained because of
19 real estate practices that real estate agents, if
20 an African-American came to town looking for
21 housing, even if they could afford to live
22 anywhere they would tend to steer them towards the
23 African-American neighborhoods. Was that
24 something people were aware of at that time? Was
25 that kind of a --

1 **DR. CASAD:** Oh, I think they were, and in
 2 fact in some parts of the city the, in fact in
 3 West Hills, where we ultimately bought a house in
 4 1968, there were racially restrictive clauses in
 5 the covenants of the deeds. The property, all of
 6 them have covenants running with the land that
 7 prevented the sale of that land to persons, I
 8 think they even included Jews in there, that
 9 people had to be white Christians in order to live
 10 in that neighborhood, and those, you know, later
 11 developed areas, most of them did have racial
 12 covenants in the properties, so I don't know how
 13 many people who weren't actively involved were
 14 aware of it but I certainly was, and it was
 15 evident just from looking at the city where black
 16 people had to live.

17 (14:44)

18 **MR. ARNOLD:** What would you say at that time
 19 were the most obvious or known impediments to
 20 bringing about change? Was it certain, just
 21 racial attitudes of a certain established group of
 22 residents of the city or was it other factors, or
 23 was it just kind of the national environment, that
 24 Lawrence was just indicative of the nation?

25 **DR. CASAD:** Well, I think Lawrence was

1 indicative of the nation. If anything it was
2 probably a little bit advanced over a lot of
3 places, but I think it was the fear that real
4 estate prices would plummet if they allowed
5 African-Americans to live anywhere except in those
6 areas where they were already contaminated, and I
7 think that was probably one of the principal
8 forces behind the continued practice of race
9 segregation in everything.

10 Businesses were afraid that they'd lose
11 customers if they opened their stores, and
12 restaurants especially, to black people, but I
13 don't know, I can't remember exactly how much of
14 that, of racial segregation continued in the
15 restaurants by that time. I think it probably did
16 but I'm not, I really am not certain when the
17 racial segregation in the restaurants was ended,
18 probably not until 1964, the Civil Rights Act.

19 (14:46:05)

20 **MR. ARNOLD:** Right. Well, some of it changed
21 to a degree in the late '50s after -- I don't know
22 whether you ever have heard of the story of Wilt
23 Chamberlain and four other African-American
24 athletes [actually three other athletes].

25 **DR. CASAD:** Oh yes.

1 **MR. ARNOLD:** -- going to the chancellor and
2 saying, "If you don't get the restaurant owners
3 downtown to open their businesses up to us we're
4 gonna transfer out of K.U.," and --

5 **DR. CASAD:** Yes.

6 **MR. ARNOLD:** -- some change was brought about
7 because of that, which shows you how much prestige
8 Wilt brought to the program, and --

9 **DR. CASAD:** Yes.

10 **MR. ARNOLD:** -- how that --

11 **DR. CASAD:** I do remember that when a
12 basketball team would go and have dinner together
13 before games or something like that LaVannes
14 Squires, who was the first black athlete allowed
15 to participate on university varsity teams, was
16 not allowed to eat with the other team members and
17 Phog Allen himself required the owner of the
18 Jayhawk Cafe, which was where they liked to eat,
19 which is right down there on Ohio Street at 14th,
20 to permit LaVannes Squires to eat with the team.
21 Yes, I remember that. That was in the '50s,
22 though, I think.

23 (14:47:35)

24 **MR. ARNOLD:** Right, late '50s. '59, I
25 believe.

1 Now that's an example of how K.U. students
2 certainly had some influence in bringing about
3 change in the city, but what's also obvious when
4 you read about the history of the groups that were
5 advocating for change was the involvement of
6 people like yourselves, K.U. faculty members. Did
7 you find that to be the case, that many of your
8 colleagues, in addition to yourself, and their
9 spouses often were often interested in pursuing
10 change and supporting these organizations that
11 were advocating for social justice?

12 **DR. CASAD:** I think that, yes, members of the
13 faculty were generally sympathetic with
14 desegregation, but I don't remember how active
15 most of them were in that regard, but I'm sure
16 they voted for the measures that would tend to
17 desegregate the city whenever issues came up like
18 that.

19 I know the churches were actively involved in
20 helping to desegregate the city, to promote racial
21 equality. Committee on Racial Equality, is that
22 what you were talking about, C-O-R-E?

23 **MR. ARNOLD:** CORE was --

24 **DR. CASAD:** Yes, yes.

25 **MR. ARNOLD:** That's --

1 **DR. CASAD:** I remember that as a student.

2 **MR. ARNOLD:** Right.

3 **DR. CASAD:** I don't remember them involved in
4 this.

5 (14:49:24)

6 **MR. ARNOLD:** Yes, many faculty members were
7 involved in things like, or their spouses, in
8 League of Women Voters, the Fair Housing
9 Coordinating Committee, the United Church Women,
10 but, as you say, in addition to the faculty
11 members and spouses the churches also I think you
12 often found being very heavily involved in some of
13 these types of organizations.

14 **DR. CASAD:** Uh-huh.

15 (14:49:50)

16 **MR. ARNOLD:** And then the other one that I
17 had mentioned earlier, the League for the
18 Promotion of Democracy, which was active from the
19 late '40s until about '64, also pursued those
20 types of issues and had quite a bit of faculty
21 involvement.

22 Would you say that, was there any, did you
23 ever sense any resentment on the part of long-time
24 residents of the city with faculty members wanting
25 to stir things up and bring about change, --

1 **DR. CASAD:** Oh yes.

2 **MR. ARNOLD:** -- did you ever sense that? And
3 how would you describe kind of --

4 **DR. CASAD:** I think there was always some
5 tension between the town and gown that -- and I
6 don't know, I can't put my finger on specific
7 instances that would give me that feeling but I
8 tended to get the idea that people in the city
9 resented these outsiders coming in and trying to
10 change their community, and I think the
11 Journal-World wasn't especially sympathetic to the
12 changes, although, as I recall, they were never,
13 they never actively attempted to oppose it.

14 As example of our -- I was, I was invited to
15 write this article here, and I don't remember if
16 it was by the Journal-World or whether the
17 Journal-World invited the Committee on Fair
18 Housing to submit some kind of an article and they
19 designated me to do it, I can't remember the
20 circumstances.

21 (14:51:50)

22 **MR. ARNOLD:** Right. Yes, there were actually
23 seven articles that were published in a series in
24 February of 1967. You authored one of them,
25 obviously, and there were six others that were

1 either authored by specific individuals or
2 authorship wasn't attributed but all kind of in
3 favor, examining different aspects of the fair
4 housing issue and arguing in favor. I was going
5 to ask you if you recall how that --

6 **DR. CASAD:** Who were the other --

7 **MR. ARNOLD:** One was a sociology professor, I
8 don't have the names with me, but I think three of
9 them were professors in addition to yourself, but
10 it appeared they were all members of the Fair
11 Housing Coordinating Committee, so it looked as if
12 it was something that the committee had decided to
13 put a series of articles together to kind of, as
14 sort of a side track while the Human Relations
15 Commission was crafting the ordinance to --

16 **DR. CASAD:** Uh-huh.

17 (14:52:49)

18 **MR. ARNOLD:** And I'm wondering if you recall
19 what the intended target audience of those
20 articles was? Was it just to hopefully try and --

21 **DR. CASAD:** Just the community at large, I
22 guess, to make sure they understood the issues.
23 It's not somebody trying to stir up their, trouble
24 for them. There was a lot of trouble here already
25 if you happened to be black and were trying to

1 eliminate or alleviate some of that.

2 (14:53:21)

3 **MR. ARNOLD:** Right. Do you recall also in
4 the same time frame the Fair Housing Coordinating
5 Committee also pursued a signature campaign and
6 they got over a thousand people in Lawrence to
7 sign a pledge that they supported fair housing?

8 **DR. CASAD:** I don't remember that.

9 **MR. ARNOLD:** Okay. It was actually in, the
10 city has actually mapped out the location because
11 everyone, it was published in the Journal-World
12 and everybody also provided their address and the
13 city actually found very broad-based support when
14 you looked at where all these people lived,
15 including many, many of them in all-white
16 neighborhoods, --

17 **DR. CASAD:** Uh-huh.

18 **MR. ARNOLD:** -- so it was pretty obvious that
19 a fair number of citizens of Lawrence had no
20 qualms about having African-American families
21 living in their neighborhoods.

22 Do you think that, do you have the sense that
23 there was fairly broad-based support in the
24 community for fair housing?

25 **DR. CASAD:** I don't really have much sense

1 for that. I think it was something that we --

2 (Phone ringing)

3 Some robo call.

4 We didn't feel a lot of support from anybody
5 other than those that were actively involved in
6 it, but I didn't see any organized opposition
7 except to the extent that the realtors perhaps
8 were sub rosa an organized group that opposed it.

9 (14:55:04)

10 **MR. ARNOLD:** Right, yes. Do you recall how
11 the Fair Housing Coordinating Committee came
12 about? I know it was kind of an umbrella
13 organization of a number of different [groups].
14 Were you involved at all in their [activities] and
15 who decided we need this coordinating committee to
16 pursue fair housing?

17 **DR. CASAD:** I have a feeling that I was but I
18 don't remember that, that I was -- I don't know in
19 what capacity. I'm not even sure that I was on
20 that committee. I just was involved because I was
21 willing to do the work.

22 (14:55:51)

23 **MR. ARNOLD:** I think you and your wife
24 attended a number of the, well, the Human
25 Relations Commission meetings, along with many

1 other members of the Fair Housing Coordinating
2 Committee. Do you remember Reverend Richard
3 Dulin, who was in charge of the committee? He was
4 the youth pastor [of Plymouth Congregational
5 Church].

6 **DR. CASAD:** The name I remember. I don't
7 have a recollection of the person.

8 (14:56:13).

9 **MR. ARNOLD:** Okay. I was just curious. Your
10 wife I know was involved with United Church Women
11 and the Lawrence League of Women Voters and they
12 both were organizations that were concerned about
13 fair housing.

14 **DR. CASAD:** Uh-huh.

15 **MR. ARNOLD:** Was she there representing them
16 at these meetings or was she really there on an
17 individual basis?

18 **DR. CASAD:** No, I think she may have had some
19 official capacity.

20 **MR. ARNOLD:** Okay.

21 **DR. CASAD:** I'm not positive but --

22 (14:56:43)

23 **MR. ARNOLD:** Right. And what got both of you
24 interested in getting involved in support of this
25 issue? Any particular concerns or --

1 **DR. CASAD:** Yes, just our personal beliefs, I
2 think.

3 (14:57)

4 **MR. ARNOLD:** Okay. Was there a sense among
5 the groups that were supporting this that the
6 ordinance could make a real difference?

7 **DR. CASAD:** Well, we hoped it could. There
8 was also a feeling that how are you going to
9 enforce this? How are you going to enforce it?
10 And the enforceability was a matter that people
11 were concerned about because they didn't want to
12 have to use strongarm methods if they didn't have
13 to and so that was a factor people were worried
14 about, but -- and if you're not going to enforce
15 it what good is it? You know, that, there was
16 that kind of discussion.

17 (14:57:51)

18 **MR. ARNOLD:** I think a year before the Fair
19 Housing Coordinating Committee brought the
20 proposal for a city ordinance up to the Lawrence
21 Human Relations Commission the State of Kansas had
22 considered a fair housing law but it had not
23 passed. Was part of the motivation in pushing it
24 to the City Council the disappointment in the fact
25 that the State had not taken up the issue?

1 **DR. CASAD:** I don't recall that.

2 (14:58:16)

3 **MR. ARNOLD:** Okay. Do you remember off the
4 top of your head any particular other individuals
5 who you remember working with that played kind of
6 an important role in pushing the issue forward and
7 drafting the ordinance?

8 **DR. CASAD:** Well, the only people I recall
9 specifically were Ann Moore and her husband, Tom
10 Moore, and Fred Six, and those are the ones that I
11 worked -- I worked with Fred basically, he's the
12 only one I really recalled, because my role was in
13 drafting the ordinance and I probably, I collected
14 sample ordinances from other towns, university
15 towns and other towns that had them to use as
16 guidelines to draft the local ordinance here and I
17 think I may have been one of, if not the
18 principal, one of the principal writers who
19 prepared it. Fred was the one who promoted it I
20 think before the council because he was very well
21 known in the community. His parents were very
22 well known and respected and he himself was an up
23 and coming practicing lawyer so he was the one to
24 promote it certainly, and he did.

25 (15:00:32)

1 **MR. ARNOLD:** But I know you all used for kind
2 of your primary model the Iowa City, Iowa,
3 ordinance. Do you recall why?

4 **DR. CASAD:** I don't recall why except that we
5 may have thought that was closest to the situation
6 that we found ourselves in here.

7 (15:00:51)

8 **MR. ARNOLD:** It sounds as if you
9 intentionally targeted university towns, thinking
10 there would be the closest similarity?

11 **DR. CASAD:** I think we did.

12 **MR. ARNOLD:** All right.

13 **DR. CASAD:** But I think there were some other
14 towns involved, but not just the university towns,
15 but I don't remember exactly what all we did.

16 (15:01:10.

17 **MR. ARNOLD:** Right. Did you all have a sense
18 when you, when the coordinating committee made the
19 proposal to the Human Relations Commission and
20 then they took it up and the ordinance was drafted
21 did you have a degree of confidence that this
22 would be passed by the City Commission? Did you
23 think they'd be receptive to it?

24 **DR. CASAD:** I thought so by that time. I
25 think there was enough feeling of receptivity

1 somewhere along the line and I thought in the
2 hands of Fred, that it would, he could convince
3 them.

4 (15:01:48)

5 **MR. ARNOLD:** Did you think that it would sell
6 primarily on the legal arguments or do you think
7 that moral arguments would sway them or some
8 combination?

9 **DR. CASAD:** Well, I --

10 **MR. ARNOLD:** Or the kind of arguments you
11 even made in your article, which is if we want to
12 alleviate poverty and other social problems among
13 African-Americans housing is one area that's a key
14 to that?

15 **DR. CASAD:** Well, let's go back to where you
16 started there. I was about to respond to
17 something.

18 **MR. ARNOLD:** Okay, the legal or moral?

19 **DR. CASAD:** Yes. I think we felt that if it
20 were emphasized that this is not a legitimate
21 basis for discriminating in residential housing,
22 that the other issues would fall into place. The
23 moral would follow along.

24 (15:03:04)

25 **MR. ARNOLD:** Did you have a sense that, in

1 addition to feeling that the City Commission would
2 be receptive did you have a sense, again, that the
3 community would be receptive to this, other than
4 obviously the real estate agents, who had a vested
5 interest?

6 **DR. CASAD:** Well, I had, I guess I had some
7 doubts as to how enthusiastic the community would
8 be but once we got it on the books they were, I
9 thought it was, it worked fairly successfully.

10 (15:03:44)

11 **MR. ARNOLD:** Now why do you think fair
12 housing was an issue that a number of groups kind
13 of coalesced around and felt like that was a topic
14 that should be pushed forward and an ordinance put
15 in place to try --

16 **DR. CASAD:** Well, it was, nationally that was
17 a, there was a great deal of emphasis on that.
18 There had been some Supreme Court decisions that
19 made it clear that that was not a legitimate basis
20 for segregating people and that the, we felt that
21 the ordinances would be upheld in the courts, but
22 you had to have an ordinance.

23 (15:04:38)

24 **MR. ARNOLD:** Right. Were you involved at all
25 in efforts at the state level to push through a

1 state, similar state law, which I don't think
2 passed until 1969, but did you get involved in
3 that?

4 **DR. CASAD:** I don't recall being involved in
5 that.

6 (15:04:49)

7 **MR. ARNOLD:** Okay. Do you remember at the
8 time when the ordinance went before the City
9 Commission and first the proponents made their
10 case and then the opponents argued against it,
11 which, as you've already pointed out, was really
12 only the real estate agents, do you remember what
13 the substance of their argument against it was?

14 **DR. CASAD:** No, I don't have any specific
15 recollection.

16 **MR. ARNOLD:** Okay.

17 **DR. CASAD:** I can assume what their argument
18 was but I don't specifically remember what they
19 said.

20 (15:05:24)

21 **MR. ARNOLD:** Right. In addition to the legal
22 argument in favor of that you've already talked
23 about I know a number of people also appeared
24 before the City Commission, African-Americans like
25 Jesse Milan, who had been a victim of housing

1 discrimination.

2 **DR. CASAD:** Uh-huh.

3 **MR. ARNOLD:** Do you think their presence was
4 important in reinforcing --

5 **DR. CASAD:** Oh, I think so.

6 **MR. ARNOLD:** Okay.

7 **DR. CASAD:** Jesse was well, well received in
8 the community and people knew he was not anyone to
9 fear. Yes, his participation I thought was very
10 important.

11 **MR. ARNOLD:** Good.

12 **DR. CASAD:** I don't remember who else but
13 there were others.

14 (15:06:17)

15 **MR. ARNOLD:** Two other things that may have
16 helped sway the commission. The vice chancellor,
17 James Surface, wrote a letter to the City
18 Commission in support of the ordinance, arguing
19 that it fully conformed with university housing
20 policy, and then also the basketball coach, Ted
21 Owens, wrote a letter and said that he fully
22 supported it and kind of gave as an argument in
23 favor of it, you know, when he goes out to recruit
24 athletes, and particularly African-American
25 athletes, he often makes the case to their parents

1 that Lawrence is a town that they would want their
2 son to live in and play sports in and so he felt
3 that this was a strong reflection on the, you
4 know, reputation of the town. To what extent do
5 you think the City Commission would have been
6 swayed by kind of those university positions?

7 **DR. CASAD:** Well, I think they were because
8 they were well stated and certainly people like
9 Ted Owens was, the community certainly wants to
10 have a good basketball team and at that time I
11 remember there was a, I remember there was about
12 that time a reaction against, by some of the most,
13 you know, ardent segregationists that they ought
14 to change the name of the Jayhawks to the Black
15 Hawks because we're getting too many negroes on
16 the basketball team, but of course they were the
17 only ones who were any good and so that helped to
18 break down the attitudes in the community of
19 people that just didn't like black people.

20 (15:08:20)

21 **MR. ARNOLD:** Right. And Fred Six told me
22 when I interviewed him that he thought that the
23 fact that Lawrence was a university town and the
24 university's influence, you know, attracting
25 diverse groups of professors from different areas

1 and different backgrounds, as well as a diverse
2 student body, certainly helped change town
3 attitudes and made it, helped to make it possible
4 for things like the Fair Housing Ordinance to pass
5 do you think that's --

6 **DR. CASAD:** I think that's accurate.

7 (15:08:54)

8 **MR. ARNOLD:** The ordinance finally passed in
9 July of '67. Later that year the bond issue to
10 build a municipal swimming pool finally passed
11 after a couple of unsuccessful efforts. Do you
12 recall any advocacy for that that you or
13 colleagues of yours were involved in to push for
14 -- because I understand it was a pretty close vote
15 that time it finally passed.

16 **DR. CASAD:** I know my wife was involved in it
17 and I know our own personal -- we took our
18 children to Baldwin mainly to go swimming. There
19 were neighborhood swimming pools around in various
20 neighborhoods and some of them were not segregated
21 but the public pool, to the extent that the
22 Jayhawk Plunge was the public pool, everybody
23 assumed it was, it was segregated and we wouldn't
24 go there and support it, but I'm sure my wife was
25 somehow involved in that promoting the swimming

1 pool ordinance, but I don't remember myself being
2 actively involved in it.

3 (15:10:29)

4 **MR. ARNOLD:** Okay. So those two issues were
5 addressed, and obviously fair housing certainly
6 didn't bring about change overnight, but a couple
7 years later, in 1969, then continuing into 1970,
8 there was quite a bit of unrest in the town and on
9 campus, some of it related to the war in Vietnam
10 but also some of it related to racial injustices.
11 Did you have, or can you share any of your
12 perspectives on that violent two-year period and
13 what things were like in town and what you think
14 triggered that level of violence?

15 **DR. CASAD:** The worst period was '69 and '70
16 and that year I was on leave at UCLA and things
17 were just as bad at UCLA. That was the year that
18 Angela Davis was on the faculty and did a great
19 deal of agitation that made a lot of people angry,
20 so we had issues of that nature even at UCLA, but
21 I understand that year there was fire in the Union
22 building and one of the local cops shot a black
23 student, killed him, and so there was a lot of,
24 lot more ill feeling I guess here because it was
25 more concentrated than where we were in west L.A.

1 When I came back I remember I was, I ran for
2 judge, for the district judge. When Judge Frank
3 Gray retired there was no incumbent in the
4 position and I -- at that time we ran as party
5 nominees, that was before the judicial reform, and
6 I guess I was the last person to run as a Democrat
7 for a judgeship in this district and this was an
8 issue people were interested in, and I would have
9 to say that I believe that I carried the city of
10 Lawrence narrowly but in the whole district my
11 opponent, Jim Paddock, was, he was out, he got,
12 outvoted me for, by a large majority and so I was
13 not elected, but it was a -- I did make that
14 attempt to assert myself as a person in the
15 community instead of just a professor.

16 (15:13:58)

17 **MR. ARNOLD:** Right. Were you involved, other
18 than your involvement in the fair housing
19 committee and in assisting to push that ordinance
20 through were you involved in any other community
21 groups that were pushing for various types of
22 change that you remember?

23 **DR. CASAD:** I know I was on the traffic
24 commission but there were no particular issues of
25 social nature involved there, it was just

1 controlling the traffic flow.

2 I don't recall being involved in other civic
3 issues until -- well, I guess -- I don't -- I just
4 don't remember any. I became -- after I was
5 defeated for the judgeship I decided I'm going to
6 have to be a professor and settle down and do what
7 I can here and so from then on I was more
8 concerned about promoting my career, I guess, than
9 promoting other issues in the community.

10 (15:15:18)

11 **MR. ARNOLD:** During the 1960s obviously
12 nationally and down to the local level a number of
13 laws were passed, from the Civil Rights Act to the
14 Fair Housing Ordinance in Lawrence, that made a
15 number of different forms of discrimination
16 illegal, but obviously in addition to putting
17 those laws in place changing attitudes among the
18 public in general is equally important. Did you
19 see, oh, from the 1970s on in your many years
20 living here in Lawrence a fairly rapid change, a
21 slow change? How do you think that attitudes
22 towards racial relations, towards discrimination,
23 evolved over the years?

24 **DR. CASAD:** Well, I think the national,
25 legislation at the national level promoted it

1 nationwide and that in turn was reflected in,
2 probably within 10 years there was quite a bit of
3 change here in the community, and by 1970 I'd say
4 it was much better in terms of the relations
5 between the blacks and whites.

6 Segregation was largely eliminated, official
7 segregation, and so on. I don't know, I think it
8 basically, though, it was a reflection of action
9 at the national level.

10 (15:17:12)

11 **MR. ARNOLD:** Did you feel like you could look
12 back later, reflect back on the passage of the
13 Fair Housing Ordinance here and see that it
14 brought about changes in Lawrence, at least over
15 time?

16 **DR. CASAD:** Well, I don't know, I can't put
17 my finger on cause and effect --

18 **MR. ARNOLD:** Right.

19 **DR. CASAD:** -- but from that time things
20 began to improve in terms of racial relations
21 fairly rapidly.

22 (15:17:50)

23 **MR. ARNOLD:** In reflecting back on that
24 period and the role you played in bringing about
25 the Fair Housing Ordinance, bringing it to

1 fruition, what would you say you were most proud
2 of in terms of the role you played?

3 **DR. CASAD:** Well, I guess that's about the
4 only one that I did play much of an active role in
5 is the ordinance, that ordinance, and I do, I did,
6 I think a large part of the drafting was done by
7 me to get the materials together and decide on
8 what should go in it. I discussed it with Fred at
9 great length, but I guess that would be my major
10 achievement would be the drafting of that
11 ordinance.

12 (15:18:49)

13 **MR. ARNOLD:** Okay. Kind of reflecting back
14 in that period of your life and your involvement
15 in that and kind of your observation, if you were
16 going to talk to a group of young people today
17 about how to bring about change what kind of
18 advice would you give them in terms of, you know,
19 looking at how change came about in different ways
20 in the 1960s, which was a very activist period,
21 what advice would you give them if they were
22 seeking to bring about change today?

23 **DR. CASAD:** Well, I certainly was never as
24 sympathetic with violent demonstrations and I
25 really don't, I would not advise people to do

1 that. I don't know how effective you can be
2 without it, but I don't know how effective this
3 would have been if there hadn't been some
4 agitation elsewhere in the country in the '60s
5 that did involve some active, well, some coercive
6 measures, like sit-ins and things like that.

7 I always felt that if we can state the
8 arguments clearly enough, then we'll have to
9 depend on people's conscience, and I guess we
10 stated them clearly enough in this case without --
11 we didn't have to do any sit-ins or blocking
12 anything.

13 (15:20:58)

14 **MR. ARNOLD:** Do you think -- and I think
15 you're absolutely right, I think this is a great
16 example of where a group of concerned citizens and
17 citizens groups came together, identified an issue
18 that they felt strongly about and made a very
19 strong case for it and succeeded. Do you feel
20 like timing helped you out because of what was
21 going on both in the city and nationally, if you
22 had tried it three years earlier it might not have
23 gone through?

24 **DR. CASAD:** Well, this did not happen -- it
25 stretched over several years, as I recall.

1 **MR. ARNOLD:** Right, yes.

2 **DR. CASAD:** It wasn't overnight. I don't
3 remember exactly when we started on that but I
4 have a feeling it was around '64 or '5.

5 **MR. ARNOLD:** I think '64, you're right, was
6 when I think that committee formed.

7 **DR. CASAD:** Yes. So it took three or four
8 years actually before it ever came to fruition.

9 (15:22:04)

10 **MR. ARNOLD:** Well, sir, I have come to the
11 end of my questions. Are there any other thoughts
12 you'd like to share or anything I didn't ask that
13 you wanted to talk about?

14 **DR. CASAD:** Oh, I think you've covered it
15 pretty well. I really don't have that much
16 personal recollection, you know, it was just, I
17 just remember working on this ordinance and doing
18 a few things to promote it, but other than that I
19 didn't really do much.

20 **MR. ARNOLD:** Well, I think you played a very
21 important role and the arguments you set forth in
22 the article you wrote that obviously helped sway
23 the public, because, interestingly, there was not
24 -- there were a couple of letters to the editor
25 after it passed but very little outward public

1 opposition, other than the arguments that the real
2 estate agents made, and even then only two of them
3 showed up to state their opposition to it, so I
4 think you all made a very good case and wrote a
5 very good ordinance.

6 So if you don't have anything else I'm
7 finished. I appreciate your time.

8 **DR. CASAD:** Okay.

9 **MR. ARNOLD:** Thank you so much.

10 **DR. CASAD:** Well, thank you.

11 *****

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25